



ARCATA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

631 NINTH STREET, ARCATA, CA 95521-6204

(707) 825-2000 Fax: (707) 822-7951

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VEGETATION FIRE CAUSED BY VEHICLE ARSON FIRE

McKINLEYVILLE, CA- (August 16, 2014)- At approximately 6:43 a.m., Arcata Fire Protection District was dispatched to a vegetation fire in the 3000 block of Sandpoint Drive in McKinleyville.



Firefighters work on containment of the vegetation fire

The fire was .079 acres and has been fully contained and extinguished. When crews first arrived on scene, the fire was within 100 yards of two structures. The fire crews reacted very quickly and were able to stop the fire from proceeding and causing damage to those structures. The cause of the vegetation fire was a vehicle that had been set on fire and then pushed down a cliff. There is a joint investigation being completed by Arcata Fire

Protection District, Humboldt County Sheriff's Department and California Highway Patrol.

Arcata Fire Protection District responded with 3 engines, 1 water tender, 11 firefighters, and 1 Chief Officer. Humboldt County Sheriff's Department responded because the vehicle involved may be linked to a burglary that occurred in McKinleyville last night. We would like to thank the California Highway Patrol for responding to assist with logistics and in the investigation, as well as Humboldt Bay Fire for providing coverage for the Arcata community.



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The stolen vehicle sits just west of the Hammond Trail

Battalion Chief Campbell commented, “If you don’t think arson is a big deal, look at your insurance premium. Arson is a serious crime that leads to over \$3 billion dollars a year in losses. The insurance companies aren’t going to eat that loss, all of us with insurance pay for that in our premiums.”

Arcata Fire Protection District would like to remind everyone that with our unusually high temperatures lately and the drought, that grasses and

shrubs are very dry right now. We urge everyone to be aware and to be careful because small fires can become big fires.

Photo Credit: Amy Sawyer-Long, District Photographer.

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