

Stanislaus County **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Adam Christianson
250 E. Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE September 27, 2007
TIME 4:00 PM

Two Juveniles Arrested for Starting VFW Hall Fire on August 11, 2007

MODESTO, CA- Investigators have arrested two juveniles in connection with starting several fires in the W. Hatch Road area just west of Modesto. The fires included the several vegetation fires and the VFW Hall at 2801 W. Hatch Road. Burbank-Paradise Fire Department responded to a structure fire at the VFW Hall on August 11, 2007 at 3:30 in the morning. They arrived on scene to a fully involved building and requested mutual-aid from several fire departments to help extinguish the flames. The total loss from the fire was estimated to be about 1 million dollars. Fire Investigators from the Modesto Fire Department investigated that scene on the morning of the fire. During there investigation the fire investigators were unable to determine the cause of the fire.

As Modesto Fire Investigators investigated vegetation fires in the same area as the VFW Hall over the past few months, they were able to develop suspect information. This afternoon, Sheriff's Detectives and Fire Investigators arrested a 13-year-old male and a 17-year-old male in connection with several vegetation fires in the W. Hatch Road area. During further investigation officials determined that both juveniles were involved with starting the fire at the VFW Hall. The total loss for all the fires started by the juveniles is estimated at over 1 million dollars. "The fire investigation continues long after the fire is extinguished," said Modesto Fire Investigator Craig Davis. "This is a good example of local fire agencies and law enforcement working together to solve a case and make an arrest." Both juveniles are charged with several felony counts of arson and were booked into Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall.

Anyone with information about this case is encouraged to contact Detective Jon Rivera at (209) 525-7094 or Fire Investigator Craig Davis at (209) 491-5722. Callers can also leave an anonymous tip by calling Crime Stoppers at (209) 521-4636 and be eligible for a cash reward.

For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Royjindar Singh (209) 652-6597.