



Riverside County Fire Department in Cooperation with **CAL FIRE**

# NEWS RELEASE



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Bill Weiser, Fire Chief



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## **CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department Announces Arson Arrest in Banning, CA**

BANNING, CA - On Thursday, July 27, 2023, at approximately 6:10 PM, CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department swiftly responded to a vegetation fire near the area of Mesa Street and Gilman Street in Banning, CA. Following an intensive origin and cause investigation, the incident was determined to be a case of arson.

Today, we are pleased to announce that the CAL FIRE Law Enforcement team has successfully apprehended an individual linked to the ignition of the fire. At approximately 12:15 AM on July 28, Andre Cox was arrested and is now facing several charges, including:

- PC 451(c) - Arson to a forestland
- PC 454(a)(2) - Arson during a declared state of emergency
- HS 11364(a) - Possession of paraphernalia
- HS 11377(a) - Possession of methamphetamine

The CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department extends its deepest gratitude to all the agencies involved in the swift and efficient response to the incident. We would also like to acknowledge the diligent efforts of our law enforcement personnel in investigating this case and ensuring that justice is served.

As a Department, we remain committed to safeguarding our communities and protecting our natural resources from the threat of wildfires. Arson is a serious offense, and we will continue to collaborate with our law enforcement partners to prevent such incidents and hold accountable those who put lives and property at risk.

If you have any information relevant to this incident or any other suspicious activity, we urge you to contact the CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department's arson hotline at (800) 633-2836.

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