
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



Mendocino Unit

CONTACT: Name [Tricia Austin](#)
Title [PIO](#)
Phone [\(707\) 459-7425](#)

RELEASE
DATE: October 3, 2018

CAL FIRE Law Enforcement Officers Arrest Piercy Man on Arson Charges

Willits – On Wednesday, October 3, 2018 CAL FIRE Law Enforcement Officers arrested Charles Levi Kirk, 18 of Piercy, California for arson (PC 451(c)). Kirk allegedly started several fires in the Willits, Laytonville, Leggett, and Piercy areas.

The investigation of the fires in the Leggett and Piercy areas began a month long cooperative investigation lead by CAL FIRE officers with the assistance of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department and the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office. On September 26th, a search warrant was served at Kirk's property resulting in the seizure of evidence. Kirk was taken into custody and transported to the Mendocino County Jail where he will await trial. Bail is set at \$150,000.

"I am very proud of our law enforcement officers, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney's Office for working together on this case", said CAL FIRE MEU Unit Chief George Gonzalez. "Our communities are much safer after this arrest".

As fire danger remains high across California, wildfires pose a major threat to life, property and our state's natural resources. CAL FIRE urges the public to be vigilant in their preparedness and aware of suspicious activity when a fire does start. If you witness suspicious activity, the following steps should be followed:

- Do not approach the individual or individuals engaging in the suspicious behavior
- If safe to do so, note the description of the individual(s) including:
 - Location
 - Gender
 - Height
 - Weight
 - Clothing description
 - Hair color
 - Any distinguishing characteristics such as tattoos
- If a vehicle is involved in the suspicious activity, the following information can be helpful to investigators:

- Make and model of vehicle
 - Color of vehicle
 - Location and direction of travel
 - License plate number – even a partial number can be useful
 - Bumper stickers or other markings
 - Number of occupants, including their description(s)
- Note the time the suspicious individual and/or vehicle were observed. This can be one of the most important pieces of information for investigators.

###