

Placerville Police News Release



For Immediate Release

Contact: Cmdr. Dan Maciel (530)642-5210

Release Date: March 2, 2021

Case Number: 21-002



Placerville Man Arrested for Attempted Murder

NEWS RELEASE

Placerville Police Department
Media Relations
Office of the Chief of Police
730 Main Street, Placerville, CA 95667

Placerville, CA – On January 1, 2021 at 4:17 am, Placerville Police Officers were called to the Marshall Hospital Emergency Room regarding a female that had arrived with severe burns on her body. The female told officers she was sleeping in a tent under the Placerville Drive extension bridge when she heard a loud explosion and the tent she was in was now engulfed by flames. She was able to exit the tent and extinguished the fire with the assistance from an occupant of a neighboring camp. The female then realized that she had suffered significant burn injuries and went to Marshall Hospital.

Due to the severity of her burn injuries, she was transported to UC Davis Medical Center burn unit with 2nd and 3rd degrees burns on 20 percent of her body. The female has since been released from the medical center after treatment.

An investigation into this incident was initiated immediately by Placerville PD and El Dorado County Fire Protection District. After following up on several leads, Jacob Vargas became a person of interest.

On March 1, 2021 Vargas was located by Placerville Police Officers and taken into custody without incident. Vargas was brought to the Placerville Police Department, where he was interviewed by investigators. During this interview, Vargas confessed to being responsible for starting the fire by pouring a flammable liquid on the tent and igniting it.

After being interviewed, Vargas was escorted to a police vehicle to be transported to the El Dorado County Jail. As Vargas waited to be seated in the police vehicle, he attempted to escape from officers by running from the vehicle. Vargas ran through the back parking lot at the police department towards a closed gate. After a brief chase, Vargas was escorted back to the police vehicle and sat in the back seat.

Vargas is currently be held with no bail in the El Dorado County Jail for attempted murder, mayhem, arson causing great bodily injury and attempted escape from custody.

We would like to thank the El Dorado County Fire Protection District Arson Investigators for assisting in this investigation. Anyone with information regarding this case is encouraged to contact Detective Aaron Pratt at (530) 642-5210.