

Placerville Police News Release



For Immediate Release

Contact: Commander Dan Maciel

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Case Number: PG23-499



PLACERVILLE MAN ARRESTED FOR CAUSING A FIRE AT THE NAVIGATION CENTER

NEWS RELEASE

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

Placerville, CA – On Thursday March 30, 2023, at 1:50 PM the Placerville Police Department communications center received a commercial structure fire alarm at the Navigation Center, located at 299 Fair Lane. Placerville Police Officers responded with personnel from the El Dorado County Fire District. While emergency responders were enroute, witnesses were reporting smoke coming from inside of the Navigation Center. The Navigation Center was safely evacuated as emergency personnel arrived.

Placerville Police Officers, along with El Dorado County Fire personnel arrived on scene within minutes of the initial report. The fire was quickly extinguished and found to be contained to one room. The ensuing joint investigation involving Placerville Police Crime Reduction Unit and El Dorado Fire Arson Investigators found the source of the fire was a bed mattress. The investigation led to 51-year-old Jerry Brown, who resides at the navigation center and was the last occupant of the room, as the potential suspect responsible for the fire. It is believed that the fire was caused by Brown either modifying an electronic device and/or storing batteries in an unsafe manner.

At the conclusion of the investigation, Brown was arrested by CRT and charged with violation of Penal Code Section 452(b), recklessly causing a fire in an inhabited structure. Brown was booked into the El Dorado Country Jail. His bail was set at \$80,000.

The quick response from the staff at the Navigation Center in extinguishing the fire, along with the rapid response of emergency personnel, minimized the damage caused by this fire. We are pleased to report there were no injuries associated with this incident.

If anyone has any further information regarding this incident, please contact Officer Pullmann and (530) 642-5210.