

FIRE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

Incident Number: 3104-3107-3113
Information Contact: Douglas Miser, Battalion Chief
Incident Type: Numerous Structure Fires in West Ventura
Date/Time of Incident: 1-11-18 at 04:56 through 07:50 am
Incident Locations: 1900 Block of E. Main St, 1700 Block Main St., 1400 Block Poli St.
Cause: Arson
Injuries: (general) No injuries reported
Number of Personnel: 22
Fire Equipment: 4 Engines, 1 Battalion Chief, 1 Investigator, 1 Truck Company
Agencies Involved: Ventura City Fire Department, Ventura Police Department

Narrative: Just before 5am this morning in the midtown of Ventura, a series of fires were started in vehicles and trash areas, spanning several blocks. The first fire was reported in an alley in the 1900 block of East Main St. consuming a trash receptacle, a motorcycle, and a vehicle. The fire posed an exposure problem to the adjacent business and filled it with smoke, which was occupied by the building owner at the time. Ventura Fire Truck Company 5 ventilated the structure and confirmed the fire did not spread into the building.

Concurrently, a second fire was reported in the alley of 1400 Poli St. that had a vehicle fully engulfed in fire, which was complicated by a ruptured fuel line. The vehicle was next to a structure, but firefighters were able to keep the blaze to the point of origin. The fire burned for more than an hour, creating a large plume of smoke through dawn, prompting many additional calls to 911.

Two additional fires were reported in the 1900 block of Main St. A vehicle in the 20 Block of Live Oak Ave was partially engulfed in flames in the driveway of the home. A second vehicle in the drive way of a house off Main St. was also fully involved in fire. Firefighters quickly attacked both fires and contained them to the vehicles; there was no spread to either building.

Ventura Police are actively investigating the suspected arsons. A Ventura Fire Investigator is working on exact fire cause determination. If you have any information in regard to the suspected arsons, please contact Ventura Police.

(Photo on next page)



###