

## Attempt Homicide \*\*\* Update May 28, 2015 \*\*\*

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**Incident:** Attempt Homicide \*\*\*UPDATE May 28, 2015\*\*\*

**Contact:** Watch Commander, 805.339.4441

**Location:** South Seaward Ave. at the Beach

**Date/Time Occurred:** January 17, 2015 at 10:59 PM

**Officer(s) Involved:** Ventura Patrol Officers and Ventura Fire Dept.

**Victim:** John Frazier 58-year-old Ventura Vagrant

**Suspect(s):** 3, White, males, late Teens or early 20's with shaved heads dressed in dark clothing

**Report #:** 15-00826

**Narrative:**

\*\*\*UPDATED INFORMATION\*\*\*

On January 17, 2015 Ventura Police Officers responded to a call of a burn victim on the beach at the south end of Seaward Ave. Ventura Police Officers located the victim, Frazier, seated near his burned sleeping bag suffering from severe burns to his upper torso and face. During the investigation no corroborating evidence was located to support Frazier's initial account of the incident in which he described 3 subjects dousing him with lighter fluid. During a follow up interview with Frazier, he was uncooperative with investigators and also changed his account of the incident. In addition, detectives received information from a witness that contradicted Frazier's initial statement and raised doubt about this being a criminal act.

Ventura Police Detectives continued with the investigation and consulted with Ventura City and County Fire Investigators in regards to the burn pattern of the sleeping bag fabric and the victim's clothing. After extensive testing it was determined that the fire most likely started inside the bag and the bag burned from the inside out. In addition, the Ventura County Sheriff's Crime Lab tested the fabric for accelerants and no accelerants were found on the fabric.

As a result of the investigation it was determined that this incident was likely accidental. Frazier continues to be treated for his injuries at the USC medical center and is expected to recover.

\*\*\*\*\* Original Press Release Below \*\*\*\*\*

On January 17, 2015 at 10:59 PM, VPD communications received a call from an adult male reporting that he had just found victim, John Frazier on fire at the south end of Seaward and put him out with sand.

Police and Fire personal arrived on scene and found John and some of his personal items still smoldering. After further investigation it was determined that John was sleeping in his sleeping bag with his backpack next to him on the sand side of the retaining wall at Seaward and the Beach. John awoke to three males pouring lighter fluid on him and then lighting him on fire. The reporting party said when he saw John the flames were about 5-6 feet high and John's entire upper torso was on fire. The reporting party used sand to put the fire out before calling 911.

John was admitted to CMH and was later transported to a burn unit for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns to his upper torso and face. The investigation into this incident is ongoing. Anyone with information about this crime is asked to contact the Ventura Police Department at 339-4309.

The investigation into this incident is continuing. There is no additional information about the suspects involved. If there are any witnesses to the incident, we are asking they call the Ventura Police Department at 339-4309.

The victim has been transported to USC Medical Center for treatment of his injuries. He is currently suffering from burns up to 40% of his extremities and torso, but is expected to survive.

If there are any further updates, a press release will be sent out.