

NEWS RELEASE



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Release Date:
October 9, 2018

CAL FIRE INVESTIGATORS RELEASE CAUSE OF 2017 “LIBERTY” FIRE

On Thursday, December 7, 2017, at approximately 1:11 p.m., the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) / Riverside County Fire Department responded to a wildland fire off of Los Alamos Road in the City of Murrieta, CA. Murrieta Fire Protection District discovered the fire along a dirt road, which paralleled Los Alamos Road, and Jeanette Drive. The dirt road or utility road ran adjacent to powerlines is owned by Southern California Edison (SCE).

CAL FIRE provided assistance under the Wildland Fire Protection Agreement. CAL FIRE Peace Officers were assigned and determined Southern California Edison electrical equipment failed, causing an electrical arc. The fire destroyed approximately 300 acres of wildland fuels and property owned by others, including one structure and one outbuilding.

Over 300 fire personnel from CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department, Murrieta Fire Protection District and a multitude of regional public safety agencies were assigned to the incident; including a significant augmentation of aerial firefighting resources.

Several residents were under mandatory evacuation orders, which were lifted once the life and property threat was mitigated. CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department turned the incident over to Murrieta Fire Protection District on December 9, 2017.

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