



CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department

Also proudly serving the Cities of Oroville, Biggs, Gridley, and the Town of Paradise

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Duty PIO
530-521-8265

RELEASE DATE: Friday,
May 23, 2025

Magalia Man Arrested for Arson

Butte County- On Wednesday, May 21, 2025, the Oroville Emergency Command Center received a report of a possible structure fire in Magalia. The first arriving fire engine confirmed a fire in an exterior wall and started fire suppression activities.

CAL FIRE Law Enforcement responded to the fire for investigative purposes. After talking with Butte County Sheriff Deputies, and completing an origin and cause investigation, it was determined that there were several areas of the property, both inside and outside, with charring and fire damage. It was determined that the owner of the home was Aaron Matthew Cover.

CAL FIRE Law Enforcement, with the assistance of Butte County Sheriff Deputies, searched the surrounding areas and found Cover a short distance away walking down the road. Cover was found with numerous handheld torches and was placed into custody by CAL FIRE Law Enforcement. Cover was transported to the Butte County Jail and booked on one charge of recklessly causing an inhabited structure to burn. Covers' alleged actions were extremely dangerous and put the neighborhood and the community at risk.

"As we approach Peak Fire Season, our Law Enforcement Bureau is fully staffed and on duty 7 days a week." Said Battalion Chief Matt Palade.

CAL FIRE has zero tolerance for any arson activity. If you observe someone committing arson, or have information about arson activities, please call the CAL FIRE Law Enforcement Bureau at 530-538-7888. You can also contact the Statewide Arson Hotline 24 hours a day. Their toll-free number is: 1-800-468-4408.

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