

Placerville Police News Release



For Immediate Release

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Illegal Transient Camp Sparks Bike Trail Fire

NEWS RELEASE

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

Placerville, CA – Police Asking Public to Continue to Report Suspicious Activities along Bike Path

The Placerville Police Department and El Dorado County Fire responded to a report of fire along the El Dorado Trail late Monday afternoon. The fire was located just south of the bike path, west of Schnell School Rd and grew rapidly in the dry, dense vegetation. As a precaution, several residences in the immediate vicinity were evacuated for a brief period of time. The incident was quickly brought under control in 15 – 20 minutes.

Officers came upon an illegal camp in the immediate vicinity of the fire. Although the exact cause and origin of the fire remain under investigation, police are confident the illegal camp activities were responsible for sparking the fire. Police and Fire are following up on possible leads provided by evidence located at the campsite.

Police will be stepping up patrols along the trail and are reminding citizens living in the area and those utilizing the trail to report any suspicious activities and illegal camps observed in the area. "With the chronic drought conditions, we must remain on guard of irresponsible behaviors that can lead to fires on our hillsides," said Police Chief Scott Heller, "This sort of incident is exactly the reason why we have an illegal camping ordinance in the city."

Investigators with the Placerville Police Department and El Dorado County Fire District are conducting a joint investigation of the incident. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Detective Ron Cannon of the Placerville Police Department at (530) 642-5210.

