



El Dorado County Sheriff Office



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Lt. Les Lovell

January 14th, 2010

During the morning hours of January 12th, 2010, El Dorado County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a suspicious circumstance call at 3574 Memory Lane in the unincorporated area of South Lake Tahoe commonly known as Christmas Valley. Upon arrival the deputies found a broken window and heavy smoke coming from inside the residence. According to a neighbor at the scene, the residence was supposed to be an unoccupied vacation home. Lake Valley Fire Department was notified of the possible structure fire and staged a short distance away while deputies searched the residence for unlawful intruders.

Upon entry, deputies found heavy smoke throughout the residence and an active structure fire in the interior. Lake Valley Firefighters extinguished the fire and the scene was secured for examination into the cause. Investigation revealed that multiple fires had been purposely set throughout the residence in an apparent effort to cause extensive damage. Continued investigation revealed suspect shoe print evidence at the scene. These prints indicated a single arsonist was most likely the responsible party.

Sheriff's deputies and Lake Valley Fire personnel continued to develop leads that pointed specifically to a 14 year old boy who resides in the area. With cooperation from the boy's mother, he was interviewed on today's date regarding any involvement he might have regarding the residential arson. At the same time, the mother allowed a visual inspection of shoes her son wears. One set of shoes matched the shoe prints found at the arson scene. When confronted with this evidence, the boy admitted to being at the site of the arson. Based on the information, the boy was taken into custody and booked into the Juvenile Treatment Center at South Lake Tahoe on felony arson charges. This matter will be turned over to the El Dorado County Probation Department for review and recommendations.

Respectfully,

Lt. Les Lovell, L84
Lake Tahoe Operations
El Dorado County Sheriff's Office
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