



CHICO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

530-897-4900

Type of Incident: Arson
Location of Incident: Downtown area of Chico
Date/Time Occurred: 5-20-2016 between 0053 and 0204 hours
Date/Time of Arrest: 5-20-2016 at 0239 hours
Incident Case Number: 16-3765
Victim: Various
Suspect: James Newsome (6-6-73)

On May 20th, 2016 at about 0053 hours, witnesses saw suspicious activity at a house on W. 4th Street. A subject was seen prying off a screen to the house and forced open the window. The subject was seen throwing something inside the house. That part of the house caught fire moments later. The subject fled before police and fire arrived. There was significant damage to that portion of the home, but nobody was hurt. Minutes later and a few blocks away, a garbage can was set on fire at 3rd/Broadway. Approximately one hour later, a tree was set on fire in front of a house near E. 2nd and Flume Streets. Officers responded to the scene for an area check while fire personnel extinguished the fire. During the area check, Officers located a mattress on fire in a bed of a truck located behind that same residence. Officers also located a male subject close by who matched the description of the first fire and burglary call from W. 4th Street. That subject was identified as James Newsome (6-6-73), a transient from the Chico area. The three witnesses were brought by for an in-field show up and all three positively identified Newsome as the suspect from the 4th Street fire. Newsome was arrested and found in

Supervisor: **Watch Commander:** Lt. M. Madden
Prepared By: Sgt. Todd Lefkowitz **Date/Time:** 5-20-2016 0945 hrs.

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possession of multiple lighters. Newsome was transported to Butte County Jail on 1 count of residential burglary, 1 count of arson and held on \$300,000 bail. Chico Police and Chico Fire are continuing their investigation into the link between the first fire and the other fires that were set.

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