



Orange County Fire Authority  
Captain Steve Concialdi/PIO

# NEWS RELEASE

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October 21, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Subject: MODJESKA CANYON MAN ARRESTED ON ARSON CHARGES**

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**Irvine, CA -** During a recent jailhouse interview, investigators suspected Martin David Weel, 39, of Modjeska Canyon, was responsible for intentionally starting a fire in Modjeska Canyon and he was arrested. On August 27, 2014, at 6:24 a.m., the Orange County Fire Authority received multiple reports of a fire alongside Santiago Canyon Road, across from the entrance to the Santiago Equestrian Center. Witnesses provided a description of a vehicle leaving the scene. A thorough investigation by the Orange County Fire Authority Investigation Section and the Orange County Sheriff's Department identified a suspect who was already in custody on an unrelated felony vandalism charge. In addition to the vandalism charges, Weel has been arraigned on a single felony count of Arson of a Forest or Wildland Area. He remains in custody. Fortunately, this fire did not occur during windy conditions or it could have grown out of control and been catastrophic.



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*The OCFA is a joint powers authority that serves more than 1.8 million residents in 23 cities and the unincorporated areas of the county.*