
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit

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CAL FIRE Investigators Determine Cause of Auburn 49 Fire

Auburn – At 2:22 p.m. on August 30, 2009, a fast moving wildfire fanned by strong winds burned through north Auburn. Along with the emergency response to the 49 Fire, CAL FIRE dispatched two fire investigators to the scene. Over the following weeks the investigators were aided by a full Fire Investigation Team who worked in close cooperation with detectives from the Placer County Sheriff's Department.

From the thorough investigation it has been determined that there were two fires that were intentionally set and later burned together. The two fires were located about one quarter mile apart and the occurrence of the second fire seriously complicated the fire suppression efforts.

The investigation is on-going and CAL FIRE is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible. Persons with information should contact the CAL FIRE Arson Hotline at 1-800-468-4408.

The 49 Fire quickly consumed 350 acres of vegetation and destroyed 63 residential structures, 2 commercial structures, 41 private vehicles, and 27 commercial vehicles along with 24 outbuildings, and 13 trailers, while damaging 18 residential and 14 commercial structures. Total loss attributed to the fire is estimated at \$40,000,000.

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