



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MADERA

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David A. Linn, District Attorney

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FELONY ARSON CHARGES FOR FORMER COARSEGOLD RESIDENT

MADERA, CA. – District Attorney David A. Linn announced today that the Madera County Sheriff's Department and Cal Fire arrested Michael Lee Lapschies formerly of Coarsegold, now of Fresno, California. Mr. Lapschies, who was on probation, will be charged with a minimum of eight felony counts of arson, Penal Code 451(c), a probation violation, and possession of a dirk or dagger.

D.A. Linn complimented Cal Fire, the Madera County Sheriff's Department, CHP, and the Madera County District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigations for their joint investigation and rapid response that resulted in the apprehension of the suspect. Mr. Linn further stated that Cal Fire did incredible work in rapidly extinguishing the fires which were located on Road 222 near Pettitt Road; on Road 222 near Miller's Landing Resort; and on Road 223, near Road 426.

A complaint will be filed by the DA's Office tomorrow. Mr. Lapschies is expected to be arraigned tomorrow afternoon.