

---

# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

## California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



**CONTACT:** Daniel Berlant  
Information Officer  
(916) 651-FIRE (3473)  
[@CALFIRE\\_PIO](mailto:Daniel.Berlant@calfire.ca.gov)

**RELEASE**  
**DATE:** August 10, 2016

### **CAL FIRE Investigators Determine Cause of Destructive Valley Fire**

**Sacramento** – After a comprehensive investigation, CAL FIRE has determined that the 2015 Valley Fire was caused by a faulty residential electrical connection. Investigators were dispatched as part of the initial response to the fire and immediately began working to determine the origin and cause of the fire. The ensuing investigation uncovered evidence that a residential electrical connection arced and ignited surrounding dry grass.

The Valley Fire burned 76,067 acres, took the lives of four civilians, seriously injured four firefighters, and destroyed 1,955 structures. At its peak, over 4,000 firefighters battled the blaze which cost nearly \$57 million to extinguish. The fire became the 3rd most destructive wildfire in California's recorded history.

CAL FIRE will be submitting the Valley Fire Investigation Report to the Lake County District Attorney's Office for review. A copy of the final report can be found here: [http://calfire.ca.gov/fire\\_protection/fire\\_protection\\_firereports](http://calfire.ca.gov/fire_protection/fire_protection_firereports).

Everyone must take steps to prevent sparking wildfires. One Less Spark means, One Less Fire. Learn more at [ReadyForWildfire.org](http://ReadyForWildfire.org).

###