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# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

## California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



### CAL FIRE / Fresno County Fire District



**CONTACT:** Ryan Michaels  
Fire Captain/PIO  
559-341-4590

**RELEASE**  
**DATE:** May 13, 2015

### **Serial Arson Suspect Arrested**

**Fresno County** – CAL FIRE Law Enforcement, with cooperation from the Fresno County District Attorney’s Office, arrested 68 year old Michael Wayne Hamilton Sr. Hamilton Sr. is a resident of the community of Squaw Valley in Fresno County.

“The hard work that went in to making this arrest is a testament that we do not tolerate arson,” said Chief Ken Pimlott, CAL FIRE director. “Residents should always be vigilant in their preparedness and aware of suspicious persons when a fire starts and report that information to law enforcement immediately.”

CAL FIRE officers took Hamilton Sr. into custody at the intersection of George Smith Road and Highway 180 without incident, on Monday, May 11, 2015. Hamilton Sr. was booked into Fresno County Jail around 9:20 p.m. on 27 counts of “Arson to Forest Lands”, Penal Code Section 451(c) and 27 counts of “Use of an Incendiary Device”, Penal Code Section 451.1. The 27 fires all occurred in Fresno County and took place during the years of 2012, 2014 and 2015. Twelve of the fires came during a fire setting spree between Monday, May 4, 2015 and Monday, May 11, 2015. One fire allegedly set by Hamilton Sr. burned in excess of 60 acres. For more information contact Fresno County District Attorney Steve Wright.