



Suspect Identified and Arrested for Arson at the Menifee Target

****UPDATED MEDIA RELEASE****

Cal Fire Investigators identified and arrested the arson suspect for multiple felonies related to the Target arson. The suspect was identified as 30-year-old Abel Arizmendi. Upon identifying Arizmendi, investigators discovered he was already in jail on unrelated charges.

Arizmendi was identified due to the exceptional investigative work by Cal Fire Investigators and information MPD received from the community. This highlights the importance, and value, of law enforcement and the community working together to solve crime and community concerns. We deeply value the strong relationship we have with our Menifee community.

MPD would like to thank the community for its help in this investigation and would also like to thank Cal Fire for their outstanding investigative work that led to Arizmendi's arrest.

****ORIGINAL MEDIA RELEASE****

Arson Investigation

January 22, 2023 - At approximately 7:30 AM, Menifee Police Department (MPD) Officers received an Assist Fire call at 30340 Haun Road, Menifee, CA (Target). The origin and cause investigation determined the fire to be arson caused.

Target employees evacuated the business and were able to extinguish the fire. MPD Officers conducted a secondary sweep of the business to ensure no one was inside the location. The fire and fire suppression system caused a considerable amount of damage to a section of the store which will temporarily impact the daily operation of the business. No one was harmed during the commission of the offense.

CAL FIRE Law Enforcement responded and assumed the arson investigation. CAL FIRE and MPD do not believe there is a threat to the public. MPD and CAL FIRE Law Enforcement will continue to collaborate with the ongoing investigation. Suspect or arrest information will be updated as it becomes available.

If anyone has any information or inquiries regarding this arson investigation, please contact CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department at (951) 943-4970.

Chris Karrer

Chief of Police

