

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Death and Arson Investigation

**December 30, 2023-** At approximately 3:31 pm, our communications center received a call for service regarding a man with a gun in the 27000 block of Early Dawn Rd. The Reporting Party stated her son, whom she identified as Robert Strauss, 40 years of age, was armed with a handgun and threatened to harm himself. It was also reported that Strauss was possibly under the influence of an unknown substance. All of the family members left the residence to a safe location and officers of the Menifee Police Department responded to the home.

As Strauss was the only person believed to be in the home, officers remained outside and attempted to contact him via loudspeaker in hopes he would come out of the home peacefully. At approximately 5:05 pm, officers on scene reported seeing smoke billowing out of the garage and the home soon became engulfed by flames.

At approximately 5:11 pm, a second reporting party from a neighboring home contacted our communications center and reported to have shot a male subject who broke into his home. Officers responded to the nearby home and found Strauss inside suffering from gunshot wounds. Officers provided medical care to Strauss who later succumbed to his injuries.

The Reporting Party from the secondary location surrendered himself to the police and was cooperating with the investigation.

The residential fire was contained to the primary residence on Early Dawn Rd. and was extinguished by personnel from CAL FIRE. No other structures were damaged. Arson investigators from CAL FIRE responded to the primary location to investigate the cause of the fire. Detectives from the Menifee Police Department are investigating the events leading to Strauss' death. The preliminary investigation revealed this was an isolated incident and there is no danger to the community.

The investigation is ongoing and may be updated as more information becomes available.

If you have any information about this investigation, please contact Detective Vince Alcala at [Valcala@menifeepolice.org](mailto:Valcala@menifeepolice.org)

**Chris Karrer**

Chief of Police

