



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

10/26/17

FOUR ARRESTED AND CHARGED FOR PIER FIRE ARSON

District Attorney Tim Ward has announced criminal charges against Isiac Renteria, age 19, Richard Renteria, age 21, Osvaldo Esparza-Guerrero, age 20, and Breane Ojeda, age 21, related to the ignition of the Pier Fire, a 2017 Tulare County wildfire that consumed nearly 37,000 acres east of Springville. Each defendant is from Visalia and was arrested on October 24, 2017, with Isaic Renteria being arrested in Sacramento.

Each is charged with aggravated arson, two counts of conspiracy to commit a crime, and two counts of unlawful driving or taking of a vehicle. Isaic Renteria, Richard Renteria, and Breane Ojeda are each charged with an additional count of unlawful driving or taking of a vehicle. Special allegations that multiple structures were burned and that an accelerant was used are attached to the arson and conspiracy charges.

If convicted on all counts, the defendants each face a maximum of life in prison.

It is alleged that in the early morning hours of August 29, 2017, the defendants deliberately set fire to a stolen car to destroy it, which in turn ignited the blaze that has incurred \$40 million in damages and costs. The Pier Fire was declared contained on September 24, 2017. At its height, 2,000 local, state, and federal fire personal were dispatched to aid in the fire's containment.

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