



ARCATA FIRE DISTRICT AND ARCATA POLICE DEPARTMENT PROVIDE UPDATE ON “SQUARE FIRE” INVESTIGATION

(ARCATA, CA) – January 23, 2026

The Arcata Fire District, in coordination with the Arcata Police Department, has completed a joint investigation into the origin and cause of the Fire on the Square incident involving properties near 10th and H Streets.

Based on the investigation, there is no evidence that the fire was intentionally set, and no foul play has been identified. Investigators identified several possible ignition sources within the area of origin; however, none could be conclusively confirmed. As a result, the fire has been classified as “Undetermined” in accordance with nationally accepted fire investigation standards. The case will remain open, and the affected properties will be released back to the property owners.

An “Undetermined” classification means that the available information does not clearly indicate a single cause. It reflects the responsibility of investigators to avoid speculation when evidence does not support a definitive conclusion.

The Arcata Fire District conducted the fire origin and cause investigation, which included examining fire damage, reviewing scene conditions, and evaluating potential ignition sources.

The Arcata Police Department assisted the investigation by conducting witness interviews and reviewing available video footage to help establish a timeline of events.

If new credible information becomes available, it will be reviewed using established investigative practices.

The Arcata Fire District and Arcata Police Department remain committed to public safety, fire prevention, and providing accurate information to the community.

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