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# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



CAL FIRE / Shasta County Fire



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**RELEASE**  
**DATE:** July 12, 2014

## **CAL FIRE Arrests Man Responsible for Bully Fire**

**Redding** – On July 11, 2014 at approximately 10 p.m CAL FIRE law enforcement officers arrested Freddie Alexander Smoke III for allegedly starting the Bully Fire in Ono. Smoke, age 37 of Sacramento California, was arrested at the origin of the Bully Fire. Smoke was operating a large rental truck to deliver soil amendments to an illegal marijuana grow site in the area of Roaring Creek Road and Sargent Road.

The fire allegedly started when Smoke operated the truck off road, in rough, grass covered terrain. Components of the truck's exhaust system contacted the dry grass and ignited the vegetation. Smoke was arrested for allegedly recklessly causing a fire and marijuana cultivation, both felonies. The Shasta County Marijuana Eradication Team responded and seized over 180 marijuana plants growing at the site.

On June 24, 2010 CAL FIRE and Shasta County Fire Department suppressed a 15 acre vegetation fire at the same location. That fire was caused by illegal debris burning. An illegal marijuana grow site was also found, however no responsible parties were located.

The Bully Fire has consumed approximately 2,800 acres of private property and is 10 percent contained. The fire is actively burning in the remote Duncan Creek area. One structure has been destroyed and one structure has been damaged. Several vehicles have been destroyed or damaged. CAL FIRE Incident Management Team 6 has been activated and the Anderson Fairgrounds is being utilized to support the suppression efforts.

With California in a severe drought, and extremely dry conditions, there is a significant fire threat statewide. Please visit <http://www.preventwildfireca.org/OneLessSpark/> for more information on safety measures you can take to prevent a wildfire. # # #