



CITY OF PLEASANT HILL

NEWS RELEASE



Crime / Incident: 451 PC – Arson

Date / Time Reported: Mornings of 10-17-19 and 10-18-19

Location: Pleasant Hill Elementary School, 2097 Oak Park Blvd, Pleasant Hill

Case Number: 19-4606, 19-4616

Suspect: Jason Allen (age 24) of Pleasant Hill

On the mornings of Thursday October 17, 2019 and Friday October 18, 2019 PHPD officers were called on to investigate multiple incidents of arson that occurred on the Pleasant Hill Elementary School campus during the early morning hours on both days. Damage was sustained in several areas, including school structures and a residential fence bordering the campus. A joint investigation by PHPD and investigators from the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District resulted in the discovery of 8 separate fires set by an unknown suspect.

Continuing investigation on October 18, 2019 led to review of surveillance footage and other evidence from on and around the campus. Resulting from this additional investigation, a suspect was identified. That suspect, Jason Allen (age 24) of Pleasant Hill, was contacted by officers and ultimately arrested for his suspected involvement. He was booked into the Martinez Detention Facility on October 18, 2019.

This investigation is currently ongoing. Local residents with surveillance cameras are encouraged to review their early morning footage for both days, should they live close to the campus or along Vessing Rd, where the suspect may have traveled to access the school campus.

Anyone with video evidence and/or additional information is encouraged to contact the PHPD Investigations Bureau at (925)288-4630.

Issued by: Sgt. Ron Priebe on 10-18-19 at 8:00 pm