



**U.S. Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Angeles National Forest
San Gabriel Mountains
National Monument**
701 N. Santa Anita Ave.
Arcadia, CA 91006
fs.usda.gov/angeles



News Release

For Immediate Release
August 8, 2018
Media Contact: Nathan Judy
(626) 574-5213
njudy@fs.fed.us
facebook.com/angelesnationalforest
Twitter: @Angeles_NF

Suspects arrested in connection with starting the Morris Fire

ARCADIA, Calif. — In the early morning hours of August 7, 2018, firefighters from the U.S. Forest Service and LA County Fire Dept. responded to a fire reported off Highway 39, near Morris Dam. Firefighters quickly extinguished the blaze at a quarter acre, using ground crews and night flying helicopters from the Forest and LA County.

The fire was called in to 911 by a passerby at approx. 2:58 a.m. The private citizen who reported the fire, witnessed two individuals in a turnout near Morris Dam. The reporting party followed the suspect vehicle down the canyon, making note of the vehicle description, a white GMC pickup, and license plate. With the Assistance from Azusa PD and LA County Sheriff Dept., the suspect vehicle was located. Two individuals were taken into custody and booked into the San Dimas Sheriff Station. U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement have filed felony charges. The suspects are being held on \$75,000 bail.

Thanks to the quick thinking and vigilance by the passerby, the fire was extinguished and suspects arrested. Although small, left unchecked this fire, had the potential to threaten life, property and resources in the forest and nearby cities. Fire danger is “Very High” across the Angeles National Forest, one spark can start a fast moving wildfire. Fire prevention is everyone’s responsibility, if you see something, say something.

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

###