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BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT

200 North Third Street, Burbank, CA 91502

OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

ARSON SUSPECT ARRESTED AFTER STARTING FIRE NEAR FREEWAY

November 2, 2017

Burbank, California – A homeless man has been arrested after starting a brush fire near the Interstate 5 freeway Wednesday evening.

On November 1, 2017, at about 5:30 P.M., Burbank Police and Fire Departments responded to the area of Burbank Boulevard and Front Street, commonly known as the “Burbank Boulevard Overpass,” regarding a brush fire along the embankment. The fire spread quickly, warranting the closure of Interstate 5 on-ramps and off-ramps, in addition to the overpass.

A witness reported to police he saw a man start the fire and run northbound along the railroad tracks, which run below the overpass. With the assistance of air support, police officers arriving on-scene saw a man matching the suspect’s description and ordered him to stop. The man ignored the officers’ orders and began running from them. After a short foot chase, Burbank Police Officers caught up to the suspect and attempted to take him into custody. The man fought with police officers and resisted their efforts. At one point, a dog belonging to the suspect bit one of the officers on his arm and leg. After a brief struggle, police officers were able to subdue the man and take him into custody.

The suspect has been identified as Edwin Matos, a 55-year-old homeless man from Burbank. Matos made statements to police implicating himself in starting the fire. Matos was also found to be in possession of several lighters and matches, in addition to an illegal knife. He was placed under arrest and booked into the Burbank City Jail for felony arson, resisting arrest, and possession of a switchblade knife. At the time of booking, Matos had three outstanding arrest warrants for drug offenses and resisting arrest.

The involved police officers sustained minor injuries and were treated at a local hospital. The Burbank Fire Department extinguished the fire. There was no structural loss and no other injuries were reported.

Matos is being held on \$141,000 bail. He is due in court in Burbank on Friday.

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QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS STATEMENT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:
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24-HOUR: 818-238-3000

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