

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 8, 2021

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Update on Fatal Mountain View Fire

San Diego – At 6:14 a.m. on April 1, 2021, San Diego Police and San Diego Fire-Rescue personnel responded to a structure fire in the 300 block of South 38th Street. When they arrived, they found a residence on fire. San Diego Fire-Rescue personnel extinguished the fire and discovered the bodies of three individuals inside. They appeared to have succumbed to injuries caused by the fire.

Metro Arson Strike Team (MAST) investigators responded to the scene. During the preliminary evaluation of the scene to determine the cause and origin of the fire, the investigators discovered suspicious circumstances which led them to believe the fire could have been intentionally set. Investigators from the San Diego Police Homicide Unit responded to the scene to assist.

Homicide investigators have been working with the MAST Investigators to determine the cause and origin of the fire. It appears the fire was intentionally set, using gasoline as an accelerant. Autopsies have been performed on all three subjects found inside and all appear to have died from fire related injuries. There were no significant traumatic injuries found. Investigators believe this was a case of murder-suicide however, the investigation is still ongoing to determine what roles each individual played in the incident.

Two of the bodies discovered in the residence have been identified, Investigators are still trying to positively identify the third subject. The remains of 44 year-old Katia Valdivia and her 26 year-old son, Angel Valdivia, have been identified.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2293 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

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