



**News Media Contact:**

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JOINT INFORMATION CENTER  
**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

SBC-JIC Tea Fire 022  
DATE: November 17 2008  
TIME: 1:45 p.m.

**Modification:** The time frame in the second paragraph has been extended to Thursday evening.

Information Requested

SANTA BARBARA, CA — Fire Investigators in Santa Barbara County are asking for assistance from members of the public in obtaining any information that could help identify the person(s) that may have caused the Tea Fire. The Tea Fire Investigation has progressed significantly in the last two days. The Fire Scene Examination Team has determined the cause of the fire was human related. The Team has also established an area of origin on East Mountain Drive between the Cold Springs Trailhead and the area known as “The Tea House”.

The investigation focus is now shifting toward individuals entering the property late Wednesday night (11/12/08) and through Thursday evening (11/13/08). At this time it is not known if the cause was accidental or intentional.

Investigators are asking anyone who may have information related to this fire, to contact the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department anonymous tip line.

Investigators are looking for:

- Description of any vehicle(s) or occupant(s) seen in the area.
- Any vehicle license plate number(s)
- Any suspicious activity that may be related to this fire



**Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department**

*Anonymous Tip Line*

(805) 681-4171



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