
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



Santa Clara Unit

CONTACT: Public Information
Duty Officer
(408) 201-4378

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CAL FIRE releases cause of Loma Fire

Morgan Hill – After a thorough and extensive investigation, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) investigators have determined the cause of the 2016 Loma fire to be related to a portable generator.

Investigators were able to determine the area where the fire originated and narrow the cause of the Loma Fire down to the use of one of three generators. The equipment was used in a marijuana cultivation operation and the Santa Clara County Sheriff's office is still investigating the legality of the operation.

The Loma fire began on September 26, 2016 near the area of Casa Loma Road in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The fire burned approximately 4,474 acres and destroyed 28 structures, including 12 homes. The fire burned for 16 days before being fully contained by firefighters on October 12, 2016. At its peak, 1,968 firefighters battled the fire. Numerous cooperating agencies participated in the effort to suppress the fire and protect lives, natural resources and personal property. Equipment committed to the fire included 179 engines, 16 helicopters, 6 airtankers, 61 hand crews, 32 bulldozers, and 34 water tenders. Fortunately, no lives were lost during the fire.

For information on how to be prepared for a wildland fire, go to readyforwildfire.org.

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