

1 arrest, more possible in Washoe Meadow fire

By Kathryn Reed

A South Lake Tahoe male juvenile was arrested on charges of deliberately setting fire to state property.

Quick thinking by neighbors in the area of Washoe Meadow State Park on Oct. 15 ensured the blaze didn't grow by more than 100-square-feet.

Because of the age of the suspect his name is not being released. However, Terri Mizuhara, spokeswoman for CalFire, said her department believes other youths were involved and more arrests are possible.



Michael Lipkin keeps an eye on the Oct. 15 arson fire in Washoe Meadow State Park. Photo/Lynne Paulson

An accelerant was used, but Mizuhara would not say what because of the ongoing investigation.

The youth was charged with two misdemeanors. His case is now

being handled by probation.

“I think the family and the juvenile were very, very lucky this was not a critical fire season. Just a few short years ago we were looking at Angora,” Mizuhara said. “I know the family understands this could have been far worse than it was. It’s lucky people in the area saw smoke and responded appropriately.”

CalFire in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service did a juvenile fire setter assessment with the boy. The idea is to figure out if this is likely a one-time occurrence or a habit.

The mental health department provides any counseling that is deemed necessary.