

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**JERRY DYER**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**

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## **ARSON FOR HIRE PLOT FOILED**

*Bulldog Gang member sought to set blaze*

On January 16, 2007, detectives from MAGEC Investigations received a tip that a Fresno County resident was attempting to find a young Bulldog Gang member to set fire to his house for the purpose of collecting money from his insurance company. Officers from the Fresno Police Department's Special Operations Task Force, ATF and the U.S. Marshall's office were called to assist with the investigation.

Officers were able to verify the information and subsequently arrested Thomas Etheridge, 52 years old, of Tivi Valley, Ca. During the course of the investigation it was learned that Ethridge planned the fire, gave detailed instructions on how it was to be carried out, and made a down payment in cash. Etheridge was taken into custody without incident near Tulare and M St. He was charged with solicitation for the purpose of arson and booked into Fresno County Jail.

For more information or media interviews, please call Sgt. Bob Lightfoot at 457-4468 or Public Information Officer Jeff Cardinale at 621-2486.

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