



SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE



DATE/TIME: January 15, 2019

LOCATION: 1200 block of Soquel Ave

TOPIC: Arson & Vandalism Arrest

CASE NUMBER: 19S-00314

INFORMATION:

SCPD Charge Employee with Arson and Vandalism for Intentionally Setting Fire Inside Fitness Center

Early Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at around 3:20 am Santa Cruz Police responded to 24 Hour Fitness at 1261 Soquel Ave for a report of a man setting a fire in a room in the facility.

The suspect, identified as Christian Cruz 24 years old, an employee of the fitness center, set fire to an exercise mat in the group exercise room on the first floor. Christian Cruz threw a fire extinguisher through a window when another employee rushed in to put the fire out. The suspect then barricaded himself further inside the room which quickly filled up with smoke.

As Santa Cruz Fire personnel worked to extinguish the flames and begin operations to clear the smoke, police officers searched for the suspect. Visibility was near zero inside the room due to the smoke when Cruz ran out of a side door. Officers surrounding the perimeter spotted the suspect quickly. Cruz did not stop at the officer's command and continue to run away. Cruz was caught and struggled with officers before being placed into custody.

SCPD booked Christian Cruz into Santa Cruz County Jail for arson, vandalism, and resisting arrest.

Christian Cruz's booking photo was not available at the time of this press release.

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For additional information, contact: Joyce Blaschke

Phone: (831) 420-5844

Anonymous tips can also be sent to the police department through our Tip Line (831) 420-5995, or from our Website; www.santacruzpolice.com. Tipsters can also submit an anonymous tip via our smartphone app or from an SMS text. Visit our Website for instructions.