



**COUNTY OF FRESNO**

Lisa A. Smittcamp

**District Attorney-Public Administrator**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2015

**JULIA HARPER CHARGED WITH ARSON  
FOR STARTING FIRE THAT INJURED  
FIREFIGHTER PETER DERN**

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office has filed charges against Julia Beth Ann Harper for the residential fire on March 29<sup>th</sup> that seriously injured Fresno Firefighter Peter Dern.

Julia Harper has been charged with felony violations of:

P.C. 451(a) – Arson causing Great Bodily Injury; and

P.C. 451(b) – Arson of an Inhabited Structure.

Ms. Harper is scheduled for Arraignment in Department 34 of the Fresno County Superior Court on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

The defendant is currently in custody at the Fresno County Jail.