

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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German Man Found Guilty in Series of Arsons

A German man was found guilty today for setting a series of fires over several days during the holiday season five years ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jurors deliberated for less than a day before finding Harry Burkhart, 29, guilty of 25 counts of arson of property, 18 counts of arson of an inhabited dwelling and two counts each of possession of an incendiary device, attempted arson and arson of a structure.

Deputy District Attorney Sean Carney with the Arson and Explosives Section is prosecuting the case.

Burkhart set more than a dozen fires early on Dec. 30, 2011, under vehicles or near homes using various incendiary devices.

Carney said the defendant sought to retaliate after his mother was arrested in the United States in connection with alleged crimes in Germany.

Over the next few days, Burkhart lit more blazes. In all, the defendant set more than 40 fires in Hollywood, the San Fernando Valley and West Hollywood.

Burkhart will return to court Tuesday to begin the sanity phase of his trial in case BA425399. He faces 88 years and eight months in state prison.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Fire Department's Arson and Counterterrorism Section, the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.