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NEWS RELEASE

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May 7, 2020

Man Charged with a Dozen Arson Fires in Covina, Azusa

A 39-year-old man has been charged with setting a dozen fires, mostly near businesses in Covina and Azusa, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Jose Javier Salgado (dob 3/15/01) of Covina faces 12 counts of arson during a state of emergency, nine counts of arson of property of another and three counts of arson of a structure or forest.

Deputy District Attorney Arthur Leahy of the Arson and Explosives Section is the assigned prosecutor.

Arraignment is scheduled today in Department 4 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, West Covina Branch. Case KA124190 was filed on April 21.

Salgado is charged with setting nine fires on April 4 and three more on April 15 at locations such as mini-malls, according to the criminal complaint.

Bail is scheduled at \$4.87 million. The defendant faces a possible maximum sentence of 27 years in state prison if convicted as charged.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the Covina and Azusa police departments.

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.