

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Charged with Starting Brushfire in Azusa

A 36-year-old man was charged today with starting a brushfire that grew to burn thousands of acres and caused evacuations in Azusa last week, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Osmin Palencia (dob 1/4/84) faces one felony count each of arson during a state of emergency and arson of a structure or forest.

Case KA125260 includes allegations that Palencia was previously convicted of dissuading a witness in 2015.

Arraignment is scheduled today in Department 4 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, West Covina Branch.

The defendant, who lives in a tent near the Mountain Cove community, allegedly started the fire on August 13 during an argument, prosecutors said.

Bail is scheduled at \$435,000. If convicted as charged, Palencia faces a possible maximum sentence of 23 years in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Azusa Police and Los Angeles County Fire 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.