

# LEMOORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



## **PRESS RELEASE**

On December 8, 2014 at about 5:15 p.m. Lemoore police officers were dispatched to the 500 block of Firenze Ave. regarding a community playground that was on fire. Upon arrival officers found the playground equipment was fully engulfed, as was the ground surrounding it. Members of the Lemoore Volunteer Fire Department arrived on scene and were able to put the fire out. Officers spoke to neighbors, who advised that some kids had been seen playing in the area prior to the fire starting.

The next day the police department was contacted by the parents of one of the minors seen playing at the park prior to the fire. They provided information regarding the children who were at the park at the time of the fire. All of the children were interviewed and one 11 year old admitted that he had accidentally started the fire while playing with a lighter. He tried stomping it out but was unable to and it grew out of control so they all ran away.

The 11 year old was cited for unlawfully causing a fire and turned over to his parents.

The damage to the playground was estimated at \$25,000.00.