



## ***Public Information Release***

June 24, 2009

Captain James Bauman, Public Information Officer

On Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the North Shore Fire Protection District and the Sheriff's Department responded to a structure fire in Lucerne. When the fire was extinguished, the remains of an unidentified person, believed to be 58 year old Harry Jon Waner, were located inside what remained of the single-wide mobile home.

The Lake County Arson Task Force was called in to investigate the cause of the fire while the Sheriff's Major Crimes Unit investigated a suspicious chain of events involving Waner and his wife, 53 year old Sandra Jean Bronson, the previous night. Bronson was subsequently arrested that morning for violating a domestic violence protection order protecting Waner and pending investigation of the fire, her bail was enhanced to \$250,000.

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Arson Task Force concluded that no accelerants were located at the scene of the fire and that its cause was accidental. The exact cause of the fire is pending finalization of the Task Force investigative report.

Also on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, an autopsy was performed on the body recovered from the home at the Napa County Coroner's Office. The cause of death has been tentatively determined to be smoke inhalation, pending a toxicology analysis and carbon monoxide evaluation. The remains necessary for a dental comparison were insufficient to determine positive identification of the body so detectives are now pursuing identification through DNA comparison.

Sandra Jean Bronson remains in custody for violating the court order protecting Waner. Any reduction in her bail amount or other change in the terms of her custody status will be at the discretion of the District Attorney's Office.