



**Mike Morrison** | Sheriff

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For Immediate Release

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Sheriff Mike Morrison reports, on 7/4/2024 a fire was started in the area of Horse Lake Rd on the hillside west of Wenatchee, known as the Balsam Root Fire. After an exhaustive yearlong investigation lead by Detective Ernie Senseney, 18 year-old Erik Carranza-Tellez of East Wenatchee has been arrested and booked into the Chelan County Regional Justice Center on charges of Malicious Mischief 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and Reckless Burning 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree.

The yearlong investigation included witness interviews, evidence processing, dna collection and testing, in addition to initial information obtained the day of the fire. That combination of information lead detectives to discover that Carranza-Tellez was in the area the night the fire started, and intentionally lit a mortar-type firework that started the fire.

This is still an ongoing investigation and further information will be released when available.

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Undersheriff  
Dan Ozment



Chief of Operations  
Ryan Moody



Chief of Patrol  
Seth Buhler



Chief Civil Deputy  
Kim Oglesbee



Executive Assistant  
April Moore