



SCOTT W. STOREY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Jefferson and Gilpin Counties

For Immediate Release
August 11, 2005

Contact: Carl Blesch
303-271-6868

RE: Two Juveniles Charged in North Table Mountain Fire

Two fifteen year-old Jefferson County males are the subject of delinquency petitions filed by Jefferson County District Attorney Scott Storey in connection with the North Table Mountain fire of July 22, 2005.

The complaints allege that both boys committed the offenses of First Degree Arson, a class three felony; Fourth Degree Arson, a class two misdemeanor; and Firing Woods and Prairies (Fire Restrictions in Effect), a class six felony. If convicted, the defendants face a maximum of two years' commitment to the juvenile corrections authorities.

A juvenile female who was at the scene was deemed to have been an observer only, and was not charged.

-more-

The charges stem from the alleged use of fireworks that started a significant blaze on North Table Mountain while Jefferson County fire restrictions were in effect. Investigation disclosed that the boys used exploding fireworks and “Roman candle” fountains, which are unlawful in Colorado. On at least one occasion, a fountain was aimed directly at the ground.

The flames destroyed one barn and came within a few yards of area homes. These residences were saved only through an intensive and coordinated firefighting effort that included several area fire departments, private companies and property owners. The fire threat was complicated by the presence of many domestic animals, including horses that were urgently relocated to escape the path of the fire.

Citizens also played a critical role in the identification and apprehension of the alleged perpetrators, who were observed using the fireworks and were detained by area residents until Jefferson County sheriff’s deputies arrived.

“Colorado is just too dry to allow this type of fire,” said District Attorney Scott Storey. “Anyone who causes a fire that threatens lives and property can expect to be prosecuted.”

-end-