

OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
**JOYCE E. DUDLEY**  
District Attorney



DA 06-171

RELEASE NUMBER

June 4, 2013

RELEASE DATE

*Joyce E. Dudley*

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Joyce E. Dudley, District Attorney

Gary Gemberling, Deputy District Attorney

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\* \* \* \* \* PRESS RELEASE \* \* \* \* \*

June 4, 2013

District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced the arrest of Penny Art Estes aka Penn Estes by Santa Barbara County District Attorney Investigators Norma Hansen and Greg Wilkins. Estes was apprehended in San Bernardino County. An arrest warrant was issued for Estes earlier this year based upon an investigation conducted by the Santa Barbara County District Attorney Investigators into her alleged defrauding of homeowners who were the victims of the Jesusita Fire and Tea Fire.

In commenting upon the arrest, District Attorney Dudley stated, "The successful arrest of Estes would not have been possible but for Deputy District Attorney Gary Gemberling, Investigator Norma Hansen, and the cooperation of a number of local, state and federal agencies, including the FBI, Franchise Tax Board, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, Santa Barbara District Attorney Investigators, the Mesa, Arizona Police Department, and the District Attorney's Arson Task Force, as well as other fire agencies and arson investigators throughout the country. In addition to multiple theft and fraud charges, Estes has been charged with the rarely used criminal enhancement of preying upon disaster victims."

Estes was booked into the San Bernardino Jail early this morning. She is being held on \$2.5 million bail and will be brought to the Santa Barbara County Jail as soon as she can be transported.

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