

Kemper Attempts Suicide

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Final arguments in the Edmund Kemper murder trial have been postponed until Wednesday due to weekend developments which included Kemper's second attempt at suicide and a fire which destroyed his attorney's Branciforte Drive home.

Kemper, charged with the murders of eight women including his mother, made a second attempt on his life early this morning in the San Mateo County Jail in Redwood City.

He reportedly removed the bandages from the wrist he slashed a week ago and pulled out his stitches with a paper clip. Kemper also attempted to jam the cell lock with wood particles to delay jailers' attempts to reach him, according to a jail spokesman.

Kemper was taken to Kaiser Hospital in Redwood city, then returned to the jail. Bleeding from the stitch removal was reportedly superficial.

Fire did extensive damage to the cabin-like residence of Kemper's attorney, James Jackson, early Sunday morning. The fire, possibly caused by a log that may have rolled out of the fireplace, did heavy damage to the living room, kitchen and bedroom areas of the wood-frame home.

The fire was reported to

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Santa Cruz Fire Department at 2:29 a.m. by two neighbors. Reports indicated that the location was off Branciforte Drive near Carbonera. City units responded and firemen notified the Branciforte Fire Department.

Branciforte units arrived ahead of Santa Cruz firemen. Assistance at the scene from SC firemen was not requested by the Branciforte department.

Jackson reportedly charged Santa Cruz firemen at the scene with failure to handle the fire and criticized the Santa Cruz department this morning.

Tape recordings of Santa Cruz fire calls, recorded as calls and radio transmissions are received at the department, confirmed today the confusion of location reports, the response of Santa Cruz units and the fact that Santa Cruz firemen were not requested to provide help at the scene.

Jackson and Dist. Attorney Peter Chang will make their closing arguments to the jury in Superior Court on Wednesday. Depending on the length of those statements, Judge Harry Brauer may also turn the case over to the jury that day.