18th Rape Victim In East Area

The east area rapist early today attacked his 18th victim—a 19-year-old woman who was raped in her home near Madison and Manzanita Avenues.

The woman was assaulted between 2:30 and 4 a.m. and called Sacramento County Sheriff's officers shortly afterwards, said spokesman Bill Miller.

Miller would not otherwise detail the early morning rape. "It's the same M.O. (method of operation) as the others," he said.

The rapist forced his way into the woman's house, but Miller refused to say what kind of force was used or where the entry was made.

In the other 17 rapes attributed to the east area rapist since October 1975, the victims have been attacked between 10:45 p.m. and 6:45 a.m. by a masked or hooded man who forced his way into their homes.

The rapist has tied and gagged his victims before sexually assaulting them. He has never attacked while there was a man in the home, although he has raped some of his victims with children present. The women have ranged in age from 18 to late 30s.

Six of the rapes have occurred in a relatively small area between Folsom Boulevard and the American River, north of Watt Avenue. All have been in the Carmichael, Glenbrook, Del Dayo and Rancho Cordova areas.

The rapist has been described as 25 to 35 years old, white, between 5-feet-6 and 6 feet tall, with dark, neatly cut hair.

After this morning's rape, sheriff's officers in the area stopped a car nearby and took the driver to headquarters for questioning. After a lengthy investigation, they released him.

Fire Claim

A spectacular fire that erupted at an apartment building took place. The building was located at 517 8th St. It was reported to Sacramento Medical Center. The fire was under control by 11:30 p.m. Arson is suspected.