

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UPDATE

SUFFOLK, VA (December 2, 2014) On December 1, 2014 in Suffolk Circuit Court, Michael Odom Smith pled guilty to charges of Manufacturing a Fire Bomb or Explosive Device (10 years with 7 years suspended), Arson of a Dwelling or Home (20 years with 8 years suspended), and Maliciously Throwing a Missile at Occupied Building (10 years with 8 years suspended). Smith will serve a total of 17 years with an indefinite supervised probation to begin upon his release.

ARREST MADE IN ARSON INCIDENTS

SUFFOLK, VA (October 22, 2013) The Suffolk Fire Marshal's Office and Suffolk Police Department have made an arrest following a joint investigation related to several incidents of arson. On October 20th Suffolk Emergency Communications received a call at 9:59 p.m. Sunday evening advising of a brush fire in the 100 block of Brittany Lane, the scene of multiple suspicious fires over the last six weeks.

When firefighters arrived on scene at 10:07 p.m. no active fire was observed and it was determined that the small brush fire was extinguished by a neighbor who saw the flames prior to the arrival of firefighters.

Investigation led to Michael Odom Smith, age 29, who was the son of the neighbor who had extinguished the fire. Smith, of the 100 block of Brittany Lane, has been arrested and charged with Reckless Handling of a Firearm, Concealed Weapon Carry While Intoxicated, Resisting Lawful Arrest, Possess Equipment of which a Fire Bomb can be made with Intent to Manufacture Fire Bombs or Explosives, two counts of Maliciously Throwing a Missile at an Occupied Dwelling House, Maliciously Set Fire to Wood/Fence/Grass, etc., Arson of an Occupied Dwelling, and Arson Personal Property, under \$200.

Smith was intoxicated and armed with a concealed firearm at the time of his arrest which led to the firearm charges listed.

There were no injuries in any of the fires. The investigation is ongoing and additional charges may be filed in this case. Mr. Smith is currently being held at WTRJ.

Assistant Fire Marshal Charles Chapin is the lead investigator.

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