

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 3, 2009



Contact:
Debbie George
757-514-4106
757-374-1770

Man Charged with Setting Fire to Residence After Domestic Disturbance

SUFFOLK, VA (February 3, 2009) A forty-two year old Suffolk man has been charged with arson after setting fire to his residence after a domestic disturbance with his girlfriend. Raleigh A. Freeman Jr. of the 100 blk. of Oak St. was arrested last night after officers responded to the report of a domestic disturbance at his residence.

Just after 8:30 p.m., officers responded to the Oak Street residence. The female that lived at the residence was outside and advised the officer that she had been assaulted by her boyfriend, who was still in residence. The officer attempted to get a response at the door. While the officer was at the door, a neighbor advised that the residence was on fire. The officer observed flames coming from a side window of the residence. The officer again attempted to get a response at the door. A subject, later identified as Freeman, advised that he was burning the residence down and was not coming out.

The officer forced entry into the residence, where he observed Freeman standing next to a bed and wall that were engulfed in flames. The officer pulled Freeman from the residence and when they were outside an explosion was heard. Adjacent residences were evacuated. Suffolk Fire and Rescue responded and extinguished the fire. Arson investigators also responded to investigate.

Freeman was charged with domestic assault, threatening to burn and arson. He is being held in Western Tidewater Regional Jail with no bond.

###