

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 13, 2009

**Suffolk**  
VIRGINIA

*It's a good time to be in Suffolk*

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## **Suffolk Man Charged with Making Threat and Manufacturing Hoax Bomb**

SUFFOLK, Va. (March 13, 2009) A sixty-one year old man is charged with two felony charges for making a bomb threat and planting a hoax device on a vehicle in a Suffolk neighborhood. Yesterday at approx. 6:00 am, Suffolk Fire Marshals and Suffolk Detectives responded to a report of a possible explosive device in the 200 block of Crown Arch. A resident of that neighborhood received a phone call from a disgruntled ex- employee, Richard Thompson, age 61, of the 1100 block of Nansemond Parkway, indicating that there was a bomb on the victim's truck that was parked outside on the street.

After receiving the call from the suspect, the victim looked outside and saw two items sitting on top of the tool box in the bed of his truck. The victim's wife contacted police.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue and Suffolk Police responded to the scene. Residents in the immediate area were evacuated by police for safety. Virginia State Police Bomb Squad responded and deployed their remote robot to approach the device. At 9:15 am, after State Police and Suffolk Fire Marshals determined that the device was a hoax, residents were allowed back into their homes.

A second location off of East Constance Road was also checked after investigators learned that Thompson had relayed another threat towards property kept there.

Thompson was located and arrested in Chesapeake. He has been charged with threatening to bomb and manufacturing a hoax explosive device. He is currently being held in Western Tidewater Regional Jail without bond.

Fire Marshal Pam King and Lt. James Dickens are the lead investigators.

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