



AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

Office of Public Information

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AURORA POLICE ARREST AND CHARGE MAN AFTER HE SETS FIRE TO HOME ON CITY'S NEAR WEST SIDE

Aurora Police have arrested and charged a man after he barricaded himself inside a home and lit it on fire on the city's near west side Wednesday morning.

Just after 10:30 a.m., officers were dispatched to the 500 block of North Lake Street for a man who was threatening to set fire to his former girlfriend's belongings. Officers arrived on the scene and also learned the man was making threats to harm officers if they approached him.

Responding officers attempted to make contact with the man, but they were unsuccessful. While doing so, officers observed smoke coming from inside the building. Officers requested the Aurora Fire Department to respond to the scene and also evacuated a man from another apartment in the building.

Firefighters arrived on the scene and made entry into the apartment to extinguish the fire. Firefighters located the suspect in the bedroom and he was transported to an Aurora area hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation.

Arson investigators from the Aurora Fire Department and detectives from Aurora Police's Bureau of Investigations responded to the scene and began interviewing potential witnesses, canvassing the area and investigating the specific circumstances of the incident. Evidence Technicians from Aurora Police's Evidence Unit also responded to the scene to identify and collect forensic evidence from the incident.

Detectives reviewed the details of the investigation and evidence in the case with the Kane County State's Attorney's Office, who authorized the following charges against 27-year-old Michael Paige of the 500 block of North Lake Street in Aurora:

One Class X Felony count of Aggravated Arson – Knowledge of People Present

One Class 1 Felony count of Residential Arson

One Class 2 Felony count of Arson – Damage to Real Property

Charges are not proof of guilt. The defendant listed in this release is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial, at which it is the burden of the State to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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