



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | April 17, 2017

FIRE CONTACT (questions related to the fire)

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POLICE CONTACT (questions related to citation)

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Man cited for arson in connection with April 10 fire

FORT COLLINS – Police cited a 28-year-old man for fourth-degree arson in connection with a fire that burned April 10 in a storage container on North College Avenue.

After collaborating with a Poudre Fire Authority fire investigator, who analyzed burn patterns and assessed the scene at 1415 N. College Ave., Fort Collins Police Services cited Branden Hammond (DOB 12/20/88) for fourth-degree arson, a Class 2 misdemeanor, for his involvement.

The incident occurred south of the Cottonwood Plaza strip mall, located at 1415 N. College Ave.

Despite initial concerns about possible occupants, firefighters confirmed that the storage container was unoccupied at the time of the fire.

Hammond was transported to Poudre Valley Hospital for medical treatment and cited by police. No additional injuries were reported in connection with this incident.

It is believed that people renting the storage container may have also been living there. Hammond was not the renter of the storage unit.

The initial 911 call reporting the fire came in at 7:31 p.m., and the first PFA crew was on scene 6 minutes later. There they found the metal storage container, the furthest western of three lined up along the mall's south side, fully engulfed in flames.

Firefighters had the fire under control minutes later, preventing significant spread to the adjacent seven-unit strip mall. Several units sustained smoke and minor fire damage. The flames damaged the building's eaves.

All charges are merely an accusation, and suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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