



NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –
July 22, 2020**

Arrest made in Arson investigation

Adams County, Colo. (July 22, 2020):

The Adams County Sheriff's Office and members of the Adams County (17th Judicial) Critical Incident Team continue to investigate an arson and officer involved shooting that occurred Tuesday morning.

On July 21, 2020 at approximately 8:05 AM, deputies responded to 3600 East 156th Avenue for a report of a family disturbance and an intentional arson. Upon arrival, deputies encountered a structure fire and the adult male arson suspect fleeing the scene in a blue sedan. Deputies pursued the vehicle north on Colorado Boulevard into Weld County to Highway 52. The suspect continued east on Highway 52 and attempted to strike ACSO units with the vehicle. The suspect turned south on Highway 85 where deputies successfully deployed a tire deflation device known as "stop sticks" which disabled one of the tires of the vehicle. The suspect continued west on 160th Avenue and stop sticks were again successfully deployed, deflating additional tires. However, the suspect continued, returned to Colorado Boulevard and drove south toward the arson scene. The suspect approached the active fire scene, drove off the roadway to circumvent emergency vehicles, attempted to strike several firefighters and deputies, then intentionally crashed the vehicle into an unattached garage. The suspect exited the vehicle inside the garage and produced a rifle. The suspect fired several shots at deputies and firefighters. An ACSO detective returned fire and the suspect surrendered. No one was struck by gunfire.

Laboratory and Crime Scene personnel assigned to the Critical Incident Team responded to the location to process the scene. Detectives are conducting an extensive investigation in coordination with investigators from the Critical Incident Team. The suspect was arrested, and detectives have requested the following charges:

David Llewellyn Schafer, 56, of Brighton

- Attempted Murder 1st degree, a class 2 felony
- Arson 1st degree, class 3 felony
- Vehicular Eluding, a class 5 felony

The suspect is held in the Adams County Detention Facility pending further court proceedings and likely faces additional charges. Deputies were assisted by members of the Colorado State Patrol, Thornton PD,

Westminster PD, Brighton PD, City of Thornton Fire Department, Brighton Fire Rescue, North Metro Fire Rescue District, Adams County Fire Rescue and the Adams County Fire Arson Bureau.

The Adams County Sheriff's Office or North Metro Drug Task Force has determined that there is probable cause to make an arrest. The defendant(s) are presumed innocent until convicted in court. The 17th Judicial District (District Attorney) may decline to prosecute or refuse to file charges in this proceeding. Consequently, charges are often reduced, dropped or dismissed.

--END--

For more Information, please contact:

Contact: Sgt. Adam Sherman
303-655-3223 (Office)
asherman@adcogov.org