



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Watch Commander, (805) 339-4416
Release Prepared by: Commander Tom Higgins
VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Incident: Arson, Possession of an Incendiary Device, Assault with a Deadly Weapon, and Vandalism Arrest

Location: 3301 E. Main St. (Pacific View Mall)

Date/Time Occurred: 05/23/18 @ 1106 hrs.

Officer(s) Involved: Ventura PD Patrol, Ventura Police Department Major Crimes Detectives, Ventura County Sheriff's Bomb Squad, FBI, Ventura City Fire

Suspect(s): Adrian Earkman, 39 years, Oxnard Resident

Narrative:

On the above date and time, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a 911 call from an employee of 4J Jewelers inside the Pacific View Mall, 3301 E. Main St., reporting that a subject, later identified as the suspect Adrian Earkman, had thrown two lit objects into the store and fled on foot. Earkman, who had been described as wearing a mask to cover his face, was being followed by mall security. Officers arrived on scene and detained Earkman several blocks away at Maple St. near Chapel Dr.

The objects had caused a small carpet fire and a large amount of smoke inside the mall, so Ventura City Fire was also dispatched to the call. There were no reports of any injuries to employees or mall customers.

During the investigation, officers determined that Earkman had made the incendiary devices with non-explosive material and threw them into the store as a prank. He did not intend on injuring anyone and the jewelry store was not specifically targeted by Earkman.

Because of the unknown nature and potential explosiveness of the devices, the Ventura County Sheriff's Department Bomb Squad responded to the scene. The two devices found inside the jewelry store, in addition to a third device that was found in his possession at the time he was detained, were secured by the bomb squad and later destroyed.

As a precaution, the FBI was also requested to respond to the scene. It was determined there was no further or ongoing threat to the public's safety.

The complete press release, including suspect description, can be viewed online at www.venturapd.org

If you have any information about this crime, you can make an anonymous call to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

If your information leads to an arrest, you could receive a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

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Ventura Police Major Crimes Detectives later conducted a search warrant at Earkman's residence and found additional evidence that he made the devices.

Earkman was later booked into the Ventura County Main Jail for arson, possession of an incendiary device, assault with a deadly weapon, and vandalism.

There were no injuries as a result of this incident.

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