



Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

Chris Dewey

Chief of Police

Press Release: Citizens stop arson / man arrested
UPD case # 16-2859

On Sunday October 2nd at about 5:34 pm, UPD officers and fire personnel were dispatched to the pocket park in the 300 block of East Perkins Street, on a report of a vegetation fire. UPD dispatch advised responding officers that a witness was following a suspect who had started a fire. UPD dispatch kept the witness on the phone and coordinated responding officers, who were able to locate the suspect in the 100 block of Pomeroy. The suspect was identified as John Montgomery age 54, with a Montana Identification card. During the investigation officers learned that a witness had been across the street near Walgreen's, when he observed Montgomery near the fire. The citizen responded to the fire and began to stomp it out. Montgomery became belligerent and upset with the witness for putting out the fire, which had burned approximate 5' by 5' section of dry grass. Montgomery attempted to start a second fire and then fled the area on foot. Another citizen followed Montgomery and reported his whereabouts to UPD dispatch. Montgomery was placed under arrest for arson and booked into county jail.

The Ukiah Police Department would like to thank the two citizens for their involvement and for providing statements that led to the apprehension of the suspect.

For more helpful information you can visit the UPD's web site at www.ukiahpolice.com, and click on the Crime Prevention Flyers tab.

As always, our mission at UPD is simple: to make Ukiah as safe as possible. If you would like to know more about crime in your neighborhood, you can sign up for telephone, cell phone and email notifications by clicking the Nixle button on our website: www.ukiahpolice.com.