



TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDIA RELEASE

"Building a Better Future Through Excellence in Policing"

Robert P. Kochen
CHIEF OF POLICE

Date: June 11, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Tarpon Springs Police units responded to 715 Dodecanese Blvd., on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at approximately 5:00 a.m. to assist Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue with a suspicious structure fire to a business. The structure houses three separate units and were covered with a fumigation pest control tent. Two units are active businesses and one unit is vacant. The tent was apparently intentionally set on fire by the suspect and the fire caused damage to the tent and the building sustained smoke damage. An adjacent fence to the structure was also damaged.

As units were at this location a citizen notified officers that there was another fire in the parking lot of 210 Dodecanese Blvd. Police and fire units responded to that location and found a small fire to a large wooden chair that also appeared as if the fire was intentionally started. Both fires were quickly extinguished and damage to the wooden chair was minimal.

Detectives responded to the scene and initiated an investigation which resulted in the arrest of a transient individual, identified as Jon Cole Howard, 32 years old. Howard was arrested for an unrelated theft charge later in the day at a location not related to the fires. Pursuant to that arrest he was identified as the suspect in the fires. He was charged with Arson and Criminal Mischief and transported to the Pinellas County Jail.



444 S. HUEY AVE., TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689 - PHONE (727) 938-2849
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The photograph is the fire damage to 715 Dodecanese.



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