

NEWPORT POLICE

Jeff T. Clark ~ Chief of Police
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11, 2012

Contact: Sgt. Keith Lewis
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On Monday 09/10/2012, Newport Fire and Police were dispatched to a residence located at 2530 E. Forest Dr. for a report of a structure fire. When Newport police officers Sgt. William Pollock and POII Ty Mann arrived on scene they found a single story residential dwelling engulfed in flames with several subjects in the front and side lawn of the property. Officers began to assess the scene and determine if there was anyone inside the home. In doing so, officers learned that one of the individuals that lived in the home had also been stabbed several times by another resident. Officers were able to immediately identify the suspect, who was still on the scene, and he was taken into custody. Deputies with the Carteret County Sheriff's Office also responded and provided assistance.

The stabbing victim was transported to Carteret General Hospital for treatment. A 3-week old baby was also transported to the hospital and treated for smoke inhalation. Two dogs that were inside the home at the time of the fire did not survive. Fire crews were able to contain the fire and no neighboring structures were threatened. Fire crews from Newport, Wildwood, Morehead City, and Cherry Point Fire Dept. responded to the scene, along with Havelock and Broad & Gales Creek EMS.

Ben Barnett, Carteret County Fire Marshall and Eddie Lewis, an investigator with the Fire Marshall's Office, responded to the scene and assisted with the investigation. Officers learned there had been an altercation between COX and other residents in the home prior to the incident. As a result of that altercation COX intentionally set the home on fire while it was occupied by the other residents while they were sleeping. After the home had been set on fire COX and the victim then got into another altercation which resulted in the victim being stabbed approximately 5-7 times with what appears to have been a kitchen knife.

COX resides in the home with parents, Richard & Dawn Amen, his sister, Cheyenne Amen, her boyfriend Aaron Quinn, and their 3-week old baby. Officers have responded to this home on at least seven occasions in the last 24 months for incidents involving domestic disturbances, threats, and drunk & disorderly conduct.

Suspect:

Jesse Lewis Cox, W/M, 26 years of age, of the home

Charges:

1st Degree Arson, 1 ct. Assault with a Deadly Weapon Inflicting Serious Injury with Intent to Kill, 5 cts. Attempted First Degree Murder, Animal Cruelty

Bond set at \$800,000 with a first court appearance of Tuesday 09/11/2012.



Jesse Lewis Cox

