



COTTONWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

199 S. 6TH STREET - COTTONWOOD, AZ 86326 – 928.634.4246 WWW.COTTONWOODPD.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 07-29-13

The Cottonwood Police Department and Cottonwood Fire Department are working together to solve a series of crimes that occurred in the 900 and 1000 blocks of E. Mingus Ave. early Sunday morning.

At about 1:48 a.m. Sunday morning Cottonwood PD received a call that there was a fire burning at the Westcott Funeral Home. When Fire and Police personnel arrived they found the hearse parked in the carport area was engulfed in flames. The Cottonwood Fire Department quickly extinguished the fire, saving the structure with only minimal damage. The damage to the hearse appeared to be unsalvageable.

While investigating the area around the hearse a second point of ignition was found. Another vehicle belonging to the Westcott Funeral Home appeared to have been tampered with. According to Fire Chief Mike Kuykendall, it appeared the carpet on the passenger side sustained recent burns but not enough to accelerate throughout the rest of the vehicle.

At about 1:53 a.m. Cottonwood Fire and Police personnel were notified of a second fire one block west of the hearse fire. Upon their arrival they were directed to a small apartment patio where they found the remains of a wooden chair that had been completely destroyed by fire. The owner said he was alerted by his dogs and when he saw the fire he filled his trash can with water and dumped it on the chair. Although the chair was destroyed the structure was fortunately undamaged and there were no injuries.

Shortly after the fires were extinguished Police were notified of two vehicle burglaries in the parking lot near the patio fire. Both of the vehicles were unlocked and only one of the victims reported missing CD's, however both vehicles were rummaged through.

This case is in its beginning stages of investigation. Further developments will be released when they are available.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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