



**Weld County
District Attorney's Office
Nineteenth Judicial District**

Kenneth R. Buck – District Attorney

PRESS RELEASE

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Date: 7/13/2010
Contact: Jennifer Finch, (970) 356-4010 ext. 4702
Re: 09CR1135

WINDSOR MAN SENTENCED TO 22 YEARS FOR ARSON

GREELEY, Colo. – A Windsor man who was convicted on May 7, 2010, of First Degree Arson and Second Degree Burglary was sentenced yesterday afternoon (July 12, 2010) in Weld County District Court. James Tompkins (DOB 3/30/1959) received a 22 year sentence to the Department of Corrections for the arson conviction and a 10 year sentence for the burglary conviction; the sentences will run concurrent to each other.

According to police reports, on January 26, 2008, someone broke into the victim's garage and set the victim's car and garage on fire. Although the victim was at home during the incident, she was not injured in the fire.

During the investigation, Windsor Police Officers learned that the fire was intentionally set and looked at Tompkins, the victim's ex-husband, as a potential suspect. It was learned by law enforcement that Tompkins, who had not had contact with his ex-wife for some time, called her shortly after the incident on January 26 to inquire about her well being. Tompkins, who repeatedly called the victim throughout that day, was later arrested at a Fort Collins motel on charges of phone harassment.

An arson dog was subsequently brought in and identified ignitable liquid on some of the items belonging to Tompkins. Officers also found items in Tompkins' car that belonged to the victim and had been stored in the victim's garage.

Investigators sent the items to the Colorado Bureau of Investigations for testing and examination. When results of the CBI testing were complete, an arrest warrant was issued for Tompkins. Tompkins was arrested on November 2, 2009 and charged with arson and burglary.

The court considered Tompkins' prior criminal history, including numerous domestic violence related convictions and a second degree murder conviction, before handing down the 22 year sentence yesterday.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wrenn represented the People of the State of Colorado in this case.

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