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Police: Burglary suspect arrested after barricading himself inside Salem home, setting fire

FOX 12 Staff

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Image: KPTV

SALEM, OR (KPTV) - Police arrested a burglary suspect Tuesday afternoon after he barricaded himself inside a northeast Salem home.

Officers responded to the 1000 block of Capitol Street Northeast at around 7:30 a.m. regarding a suspicious person.

According to police, officers learned the suspect, identified as Kenneth Ketchem, 39, of Salem, had tried to break into multiple homes.

One homeowner confronted the suspect and told officers Ketchem claimed to have a gun.

As officers arrived at the scene, Ketchem ran into a house on Summer Street Northeast through a back door.

Police said Ketchem was taken into custody at approximately 1:20 p.m. by Salem SWAT and was treated for injuries. No one else was hurt. The police department says numerous charges are expected.

A gun was not immediately recovered.

According to police, Ketchem started a fire inside the home during the standoff. Firefighters responded, but the fire went out on its own.

The public Tuesday afternoon was asked to avoid the area, or remain inside their homes if they live nearby.

Parrish Middle School and North Salem High School were placed on lockdown, but it has been lifted. All school activities, including finals and school field trips, are continuing as normal.

Summer Street Northeast at Belmont Street Northeast was closed and Capitol Street Northeast at D Street Northeast was reduced to one lane during the response.

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