



Gulf County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Harrison

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MEDIA RELEASE
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ARSON SUSPECT WANTED

Sheriff Mike Harrison is seeking the public's assistance in locating a wanted person responsible for an early morning house fire in the Beacon Hill area. The Gulf County Sheriff's Office received a complaint regarding a domestic disturbance at 9160 Cockles Avenue. The caller stated threats were made to burn the residence.

When the deputy arrived, he found the residence engulfed in flames and immediately developed a suspect as Gene Allen Porter (41). Porter fled the scene prior to the arrival of law enforcement. Gulf County Beaches Fire Department, the Highland View Fire Department and the Mexico Beach Fire Department responded and extinguished the fire. The State Fire Marshal's Office responded to the scene and began conducting an arson investigation. No one was injured as a result of the fire.

A warrant for Porter's arrest was obtained by the State Fire Marshal's Office. He is wanted for Arson. Porter is also wanted in Bay County for Felony Domestic Battery on an unrelated case investigated by the Mexico Beach Police Department. If anyone knows the location of Gene Allen Porter, please contact the Gulf County Sheriff's Office at 850-227-1115 or your local law enforcement agency.

Prepared by: Capt. Chris Buchanan
Approved by: Sheriff Mike Harrison