



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
Deputy PIO, 352-797-3608

Re: Spring Hill Man Charged with Attempted Arson Following Stand-Off

Date: October 25, 2024

On 10-23-2024 at approximately 3:09 a.m., a female victim called 9-1-1 to report her ex-boyfriend, **Jack French DOB/10-03-1976**, had recently called her threatening to burn down their shared residence on Riddle Drive in Spring Hill.

The victim advised French, who was upset over their recent break up, texted her pictures of gas cans.

Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to the residence where they observed French, a convicted felon, standing outside the residence, loading firearms into a vehicle. When deputies attempted to speak to French, he retrieved a rifle and another firearm and fled back into the residence.

During the course of the incident, deputies were in regular contact with French via cell phone. French made numerous suicidal statements to law enforcement.

At one point, deputies heard a single gunshot come from inside the residence. Deputies were able to contact French who advised the firearm accidentally discharged as he was opening a door.

Shortly before 8 a.m., French exited the residence and was taken into custody without further incident. French advised he was upset over the breakup with his girlfriend. He further advised he did pour gasoline on the floor of the residence, but never attempted to ignite it.

Upon searching the residence, deputies located a 5-gallon gas container, 11 firearms, and more than 1,000 rounds of various calibers of ammunition.

French was arrested on charges of **Possession of a Firearm by a Felon** and **Attempted Arson**.

French was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center where he is being held in lieu of a \$25,000 bond.

Hernando County Crime Stoppers / Anonymous Tips

If you have information on this case, please contact Hernando County Crime Stoppers. You will remain anonymous!

*Hernando County Crime Stoppers can be reached by phone at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or **TIPS from a cell phone.*

You may also submit your tip via the internet at <http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com> .

You will remain anonymous and also be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000 cash!