



Beaverton Police Department

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Chief Ronda Groshong



NEWS RELEASE

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Released: 12/17/2020
Case No: 20-3500798

Theft Suspect Uses Lighter Fluid and Lighter to Deter Citizen's Arrest

Beaverton, Oregon – Forty-two-year-old William Alexander of Portland was arrested Tuesday (12/15/2020) at Fred Meyer located at 11425 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy. for spraying lighter fluid on customers while reportedly holding a lighter.

Witnesses state Alexander appeared to be attempting to steal merchandise from the store by removing anti-theft devices and packaging from items belonging to Fred Meyer. Alexander's odd behavior drew the attention of nearby customers.

Alexander collected lighter fluid, a bottle of anti-freeze, tinfoil, roofing nails, and lead fishing weights. He combined the ingredients into the large bottle of anti-freeze.

Two customers observed Alexander make this concoction and they both confronted him. Alexander responded by spraying himself, the floor around him, and the customers with lighter fluid. The two customers, now aided by other customers and Fred Meyer staff, were able to tackle and detain Alexander until police arrived.

Upon arrival, officers found Alexander lying in a puddle of lighter fluid next to a Bic lighter. Officers immediately detained Alexander in handcuffs, but not before he attempted to grab the lighter. Alexander was lodged in the Washington County Jail on charges of Robbery, Menacing and Unlawful Use of a Weapon.



##BPD##

