



Phoenix Police Department
Public Affairs Bureau
620 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date/Time: September 29, 2022, around 8:15 a.m.
Incident: 2022-1466592
Location: 35th Avenue and Ocotillo Road
Victim: A male in his early 40's, hospitalized

A Man is Hospitalized for Serious Burns

Phoenix Police is investigating an incident where a man received serious burns and two others were injured while inside a vehicle.

Phoenix Police officers responded to a call of a traffic collision near 35th Avenue and Ocotillo Road. Information on the call said a vehicle was engulfed in flames with a man nearby. When officers arrived, they located the man with significant burns to his body and the vehicle on fire. The fire department responded and rushed the man to the hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Officers were able to locate and speak with the registered owner of the vehicle who had suffered minor burns. He provided a story stating his vehicle was stolen by an unknown man who burned him with an unknown object before taking his car. The owner's friend witnessed the robbery and followed the stolen car in his vehicle. The owner followed on foot and found his vehicle on fire, along with his friend with severe burns.

Detectives responded and during the investigation they began to find inconsistencies with the owner's story. Witnesses also told detectives there was a third man involved but he did not match the suspect's description. The detectives confronted the owner and he admitted to making up the story with his friends.

Detectives learned the victim had asked the owner and another adult male friend to get gasoline since one of their vehicles ran out of gas. The men filled multiple heavy-duty plastic grocery bags with gasoline from a gasoline station. The men then drove to the location of the disabled car after they picked up the victim from his home. Before they arrived, the bags of gasoline ignited for an unknown reason with the three men inside which caused the burns and the vehicle to ignite.

The victim remains at the hospital in extremely critical condition. The other two men did not require any further medical attention.

The investigation remains active. No arrests have been made at this time.