

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Suspect Apprehended in Wheat Ridge after Shots are Fired and Vehicles Burn

Wheat Ridge, Colorado – Today, March 2, 2010, at approximately 6:48 a.m., the Wheat Ridge Police Department received a call of a suspicious vehicle in the area of W. 38th Ave, Kipling St. The license plate on the vehicle came back as stolen out of Arvada.



A Wheat Ridge patrol officer spotted the vehicle and attempted to contact the driver in the gas station parking lot at the corner of W. 38th and Kipling. The driver of this vehicle rammed the patrol car, at which point the officer fired his weapon at the suspect vehicle.

It is important to note that preliminary reports indicated that there was an exchange of gunfire. However, it appears that only the officer fired his weapon during the initial contact when the suspect was ramming the patrol car.

The vehicle fled the scene and a chase ensued, ending in the area of W. 35th Ave and Fenton St. when the suspect drove through the park and reengaged with officers when he rammed another patrol vehicle head on. Both vehicles were engulfed in flames shortly after impact. The suspect fled on foot. A perimeter was established with the assistance of multiple law enforcement agencies.

Neither officer was injured during the incident.

Surrounding schools were placed on lockdown for safety reasons and a reverse 911 call was placed to residents and businesses in the surrounding area.

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A Jefferson County Sheriff's Office K-9 responded to track the suspect. During the search, officers found a house in the area of W. 35th and Fenton St. that had a broken window. Officers with a K-9 made entry into the house. The suspect was located hiding in a crawlspace and was contacted by the K-9. The suspect resisted arrest but was eventually taken into custody at 7:57 a.m. The suspect was transported to the hospital due to injuries we believe occurred during the crash as well as for a dog bite sustained during his apprehension.

The suspect has been identified as Branden Winters, 02/25/88, a transient. Winters faces several charges including 1 degree Assault on a Police Officer, 2nd Degree Assault, Aggravated Motor Vehicle Theft, Felony Eluding, and 2nd Degree Burglary. Winters was transported to the Jefferson County Jail to await his advisement hearing.



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Wheat Ridge Police