

NEWS RELEASE

**Owatonna Police Department
204 East Pearl Street
Owatonna, MN 55060**



**Eric Rethemeier
INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE**

For Release Immediately

Friday, July 9, 2010

For Further Information Contact

Interim Chief of Police Eric Rethemeier

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Residential Arson-Suspects Apprehended

On Tuesday, July 6, 2010, officers from the Owatonna Police Department and firefighters from the Owatonna Fire Department responded to 509 Academy Street in Owatonna in response to the report of a residential fire.

The Owatonna Police Department and Owatonna Fire Department, along with the assistance of the Minnesota State Fire Marshall's Office investigated the fire and early in the investigation determined the fire to be suspicious in nature.

On Wednesday, July 7, 2010, Owatonna investigators reviewed video surveillance from a Lakeville, Minnesota Fleet Farm store that identified a male party identified early in the investigation purchasing a fire accelerant believed to be used in setting the fire.

Between July 7 and July 8, 2010, officers and investigators from the Owatonna Police Department arrested seven individuals on suspicion of arson and conspiracy to commit arson for the July 6th fire, including the owner of the property at 509 Academy St, five of which have been charged in Steele County District Court on first degree arson related charges.

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