

YCSO Arrests Burglary Suspect after Forcible Attempt to Enter Occupied Home in Prescott



On July 27, 2009, at approximately 4:40 PM, Yavapai County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to the report of a male trying to kick down the front door of a home on Wildwood Drive in Prescott. The resident told YCSO dispatchers via 911 that the suspect was driving a brown truck with a tool box in the bed. The man had initially arrived at the front door and began knocking and ringing the door bell. The resident, unaware of the man's identity, did not open the door. The man became agitated and began kicking the door repeatedly and eventually disappeared from sight. As the resident dialed 911, she noticed his truck was now gone.

Deputies arrived in the area very quickly and began searching for the suspect vehicle. Within moments, deputies spotted the vehicle driving past them at a nearby intersection and conducted a traffic stop on Wildwood Drive. The driver was identified as 57-year-old Prescott resident Steven Foster Gunter, who claimed he was in the area checking out the color scheme of homes. Deputies saw that Gunter had a pair of black work gloves on his person.

Deputies detained Gunter and confirmed by evidence and witness identification that Gunter was in fact the person who attempted to force his way into the concerned home. Gunter was arrested and deputies found a knife in his pant pockets. During a search of Gunter's vehicle, deputies discovered a loaded .45 caliber revolver and additional spare ammunition for the handgun. A check of the truck's tool box revealed a pry bar, bolt cutters, full face ski mask, gloves and a pair of binoculars.

Gunter was transported and booked at the Camp Verde Detention Center on multiple charges including Burglary in the First Degree, and 6 counts of Possession of Burglary Tools.

During the investigation, deputies learned that the homeowner was armed and prepared to defend herself had the suspect made entry.