



# Newport Police Department

169 SW Coast Highway  
Newport, Oregon 97365

## NPD MEDIA RELEASE

11/13/2009 4:30 a.m.

**Incident:** Arson/Trespass/Criminal Mischief **Case:** 09N-02128

**Location:** US Market at 1445 N Coast Hwy

**Date/Time:** 11/13/2009 at 2:45 a.m.

**Suspect:** Gerald David Fruichantie, age 52 of no known address

**Details:** On 11/12/2009, at about 10:50 p.m., Newport Police Officers were dispatched to the US Market at 1445 N Coast Hwy on a report of a suspicious subject. The clerk told officers that a transient male had been in and out of the store several times, making statements that scared the clerk. Gerald David Fruichantie, a transient male from the Salem area, was contacted by Police Officers across the highway from the store, and advised to not return to the store. Because of the cold temperatures and rain, the officers provided Fruichantie with a blanket, as he had no coat.

On 11/13/2009 at 2:45 a.m., the Newport Fire Department was dispatched to the US Market on a report of a fire. A Newport Police Officer and a Toledo Police Officer, arriving ahead of fire department personnel, were able to extinguish the fire. The ice machine and a glass panel in front of the store were damaged. It was determined that the fire had ignited in a plastic garbage can sitting against the front of the building. The manager of the store was called to the scene to review the security camera recordings, in which Fruichantie could be seen setting the fire in the garbage can and fleeing the area on foot. He was located nearby in another business parking lot and taken into custody. Fruichantie admitted to the officers that he was mad at the store clerk, and had used the blanket given him by the officers to help start the fire.

Fruichantie was lodged in the Lincoln County Jail on charges of Arson I, Criminal Mischief II, and Criminal Trespass II. His bail set at \$172,500.00.

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*Information Released By:* **Sgt Tom Simpson, 541-574-3348**