



NEWS RELEASE

Loveland Police Department

Timothy Doran
Chief of Police

For Immediate Release
January 21, 2023

Contact: Public Information Office
MediaInquiries@cityofloveland.org

UPDATE: LOVELAND POLICE MAKE ARREST IN CHURCH ARSON

LOVELAND – On Friday, January 21, 2023, at approximately 8:30 p.m., Loveland Police made an arrest in the arson which occurred on Thursday, January 19, 2023, shortly before midnight at the Abiding Love Lutheran Church, 2825 E. 1st St. Thankfully, Loveland Fire and Rescue Authority arrived quickly to ensure the fires were extinguished.

Loveland Detectives, in coordination with our partners from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms obtained evidence to substantiate an arrest warrant that was served tonight by Loveland Police Detectives, with support from Patrol Operations.

The suspect is identified as: **Darion R. Sexton**, age 21. He was booked for the following charges:

- Ct 1 - Possession, use, or removal of an Incendiary Device (F2), C.R.S. §18-2-109(C)
- Ct 2 - First Degree Arson (F1), C.R.S. §18-4-102(1), 2 counts

A special thanks to Gordon McLaughlin, District Attorney for the Eight Judicial District of Colorado, and his team for their assistance.

The investigation continues to remain active and on-going.

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LOVELAND POLICE INVESTIGATE ARSON ATTEMPT

LOVELAND – On Thursday, January 19, 2023, shortly before midnight, Loveland Fire Rescue Authority received an alarm to Abiding Love Lutheran Church, 2825 E 1st St.

Upon arrival, LFRA located a broken window at the front entrance of the church. A very small fire was extinguished immediately, with minimal damage and no injuries. Loveland Police Department was contacted to assist.



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Upon search of the church, evidence of a second fire was found in the basement; however, the automatic sprinklers extinguished this fire causing slight damage.

We are in the preliminary stages of this active investigation. When further details emerge, we will provide updates.

Anyone with additional information about this case is asked to contact Detective Danyel McGraw with the Criminal investigations Unit at 970-962-2258 or Danyel.McGraw@cityofloveland.org.

Anyone wishing to remain anonymous may call Crime Stoppers of Larimer County at (970) 221-6868 or click here: [Tip Form \(p3tips.com\)](https://www.p3tips.com).

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The information contained in this news release is based on preliminary information available at the time of drafting. The Loveland Police Department's understanding of this incident may change as additional evidence is collected, analyzed, and reviewed. The purpose of this press release is to provide timely information to the public.