



Calexico Police Department

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Chief Armando Orozco
Office of the Chief of Police
Calexico CA, 92231

Date: April 26, 2025

Subject: Arrest of Arson Suspect Following Violent Disturbance at Walmart

On today's date at approximately 1650 hours, officers from the Calexico Police Department responded to a report of a disturbance at the Walmart store located within city limits. Upon arrival, officers were informed that a subject, later identified as Jessie Romero, a 38-year-old transient with numerous prior law enforcement contacts, had entered the business and attempted to ignite store merchandise using a lighter obtained from the shelves.

It was further determined that just prior to this incident, Romero had been removed from another business located south of Walmart. Notably, Romero is a registered arsonist, with a prior conviction for setting fire to the former Burger King building in the City of Calexico.

During the current incident, Romero was initially confronted and stopped by an associate within the store before officers arrived. Romero Assaulted that employee and attempted to stop him from placing an emergency call.

When officers contacted Romero, he displayed continued aggressive behavior and violently resisted arrest. Additional units were requested as Romero fought with officers and attempted to disarm one of them by reaching for both their Taser and duty firearm. After a prolonged struggle, Romero was successfully restrained and placed into handcuffs. Medical personnel from the Calexico Fire Department responded to provide initial treatment to Romero. He was subsequently transported to El Centro Regional Medical Center for medical clearance before being booked into the Imperial County Jail. Romero is facing multiple felony charges, including Attempted Arson, Burglary, Felony Assault, and Felony Resisting Arrest.

One Calexico police officer sustained injuries during the altercation. The officer is currently receiving treatment and is expected to recover.

The Calexico Police Department commends the quick and courageous response of all employees and officers involved, whose actions prevented a potentially devastating fire and further harm to members of our community.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Calexico Police Department Public Information Officer

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