



Ceres Department of Public Safety

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Brian Willie Gault Convicted of Setting Four Fires at the Ceres Home Depot in 2009

Ceres, California – On 04-01-09, Ceres Police Detective Tonya Smith arrested 27 year old Brian Willie Gault out of Modesto on four counts of arson relating to fires at the Ceres Home Depot after a lengthy investigation and receiving the results of processed physical evidence. Brian was employed at the Home Depot store on Hatch Road in Ceres during the following arson incidents: 01/07/2009, 01/09/2009, 01/10/09 and 01/11/2009.

Four separate fires were contained and extinguished by the store's sprinkler system and fire personnel before any permanent damage occurred. Several thousand dollars in loss to the store was incurred due to the water damage to merchandise and loss of income from closing the store closing for clean up.

Detective Smith discovered that Brian had lit paint pamphlets on fire and on a separate occasion, was responsible for starting a chlorine fire. After setting the fires, he would alert management, call 911, put out the fire, and take credit for heroism. This behavior fits the Brady Kirk's "Hero/Vanity" profile: fire setting to seek attention or respect, and then staying there as part of the crowd, assisting with rescue/suppression efforts, or even taking responsibility for the fire.

Brian was convicted of arson on August 16, 2011, received a sentence of one year of incarceration, is mandated to register as an arsonist, and must pay a restitution of an estimated one million dollars.

James Robbins, Sergeant
Ceres Police Department
Investigation unit