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ROXBURY

Police search for Brockton man wanted for allegedly setting fire to occupied Roxbury home

Posted by Matt Rocheleau March 9, 2012 04:36 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Police are seeking the public's help in finding a Brockton man wanted on an arrest warrant issued Friday in connection with a fire that broke out at a Roxbury home late Thursday night that city fire investigators say was intentionally set while three adults were inside.



(Boston Police)

James Stewart, 27, of Brockton

James Stewart, 27, is facing arrest for "arson of a dwelling and willful malicious destruction of property" for the alleged arson at 7 St. James St., according to Boston Police. Stewart is described as being black, 6 feet tall, and about 210 pounds.

All three adults inside the home that caught fire exited the single-family residence safely, officials said. The victims told responding officers that they saw the suspect walking away from the home after the house caught fire, police said.

Police say Stewart was last operating a black, four-door 1992 Lexus LS400 with Florida plates. A possible license plate number for that car is 9112GE, officials said.

Stewart may be heading to the area of Vero Beach, Florida. He has custody of a

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his child, Harmony, who is one year and 11 months old, but police said it is not known whether the child is with him currently.

Firefighters responded to the residence at about 10:50 p.m., Boston Fire Department spokesman Steve MacDonald said. The one-alarm blaze caused an estimated \$100,000 in damage, he said.

One firefighter was treated at and later released from Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary for a non-life threatening injury due to debris in that fell in the firefighter's ear, according to fire officials.

The fire began on the first floor of the two-and-a-half story, wood-frame house near where St. James, Warren, Regent and Moreland streets meet, the fire spokesman said.

MacDonald said that fire investigators remained on scene later Thursday night and for several hours early Friday morning. On Friday, an arrest warrant for an adult male was issued out of a local court, he said

He declined to disclose more about what started the fire.

"They [the fire investigators] know where the fire started and how, but they're keeping that information to themselves at this time," MacDonald said.

The city assesses the 2,950 square-foot Colonial-style home at \$121,000 and the land it sits on at an additional value of \$76,300.

Boston Police urge anyone with information on his whereabouts to call District B-2 detectives in Roxbury at 617-343-4275. Those who wish to provide information anonymously can do so by calling the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1-800-494-TIPS or by texting the word 'TIP' to CRIME (27463).

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.

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