

# Leavenworth man found guilty of arson, damaging property

OFFICE OF LEAVENWORTH COUNTY ATTORNEY

TODD THOMPSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY

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[countyattorney@leavenworthcounty.gov](mailto:countyattorney@leavenworthcounty.gov)

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LEAVENWORTH, Kan. --- A Leavenworth man was found guilty Monday, July 14, of arson and criminal damage to property following a one-day trial in Leavenworth County District Court.

Mark A. Rhode, 63, was convicted on both charges stemming from a March 28, 2024, incident in which he attempted to set fire to a house that did not belong to him.

Just after 9 a.m. that morning, a Leavenworth police officer responded in regards to an arson in progress. Upon arrival, officers found Rhode on the front porch of the house. When asked if why he was trying to set the house on fire, Rhode stated, "Cause I'm gonna burn it down."

The responding officer observed a broken window near where Rhode was standing, along with a bottle of hairspray and other flammable materials. When asked if he broke the glass, Rhode responded, "I certainly did."

Firefighters who later arrived to investigate discovered a burnt tissue inside the house, on the floor, just below the broken window. Rhode was taken into custody at the scene. The investigation found that Rhode had stepped onto the porch, broken the window, and tried to start a fire.

"Alert neighbors called authorities, which helped bring a dangerous situation under control," said Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson. "Setting fire to someone's home is reckless. We're grateful for the quick response from law enforcement and firefighters following a call to police."

Sentencing is scheduled for August 22, 2025, at 11 a.m. in Leavenworth County District Court.