

Wreck, Arson, Stolen Vehicles, Investigated

(KAIR)--A vehicle is found wrecked and on fire in Atchison County, with the resulting investigation leading to allegations of arson, and to the discovery of a residential burglary and stolen vehicles.

Sheriff Jack Laurie told MSC News the abandoned vehicle was discovered on Bourbon Road, north of 262nd Road around 9:00 Saturday night.

The vehicle, which had left the roadway and smashed through a barbed-wire fence and a field embankment, had been stolen from Overland Park.

The Effingham Fire Department was called in to extinguish the blaze, which Laurie said is believed to have been intentionally set. "We did recover a gas can," Laurie said. "We had the State Fire Marshal come in and take a look, and we do believe it was set and not the result of an accident."

Laurie says the gas tank was allegedly found in a separate vehicle driven by 28-year-old Overland Park resident Elizabeth Spiess.

She was arrested late Sunday morning after she drew attention to herself while fixing a tire in the Effingham area. Laurie said an eyewitness said Spiess appeared to have been in a fire.

Atchison Police later spotted her vehicle, and made a stop, with the investigation tying Spiess to her alleged role in the wreck and fire.

According to Laurie, Deputies were able to learn from Spiess that a Bourbon Road residence, not far from the wrecked vehicle was found, had been burglarized. Stolen were car keys which allowed the suspects to drive away in a vehicle that had been parked at the home.

Laurie says it was later recovered in Falls City, Nebraska, where another suspect was also taken into custody, driving a separate vehicle, but who is allegedly tied to the vehicle thefts and to the wreck. The suspect's name isn't immediately available.

The investigation continues, and more arrests are expected.

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