



# Town of Estes Park

## News Release

---

July 29, 2025

## Man arrested for burglary and arson

A man has been arrested for breaking into a business, stealing a sword, and starting a fire at a local motel the night of July 25, 2025. At approximately 10:54 p.m., the Estes Park Police Department (EPPD) received a report that a male had just broken a window at Blades knife shop, located at 145 E. Elkhorn Avenue. After gaining entry, the male stole a sword before fleeing the scene on foot. Officers responded to the area and began searching for the suspect.

At approximately 11:50 p.m., a fire was reported at the Haber Motel located at 397 E. Elkhorn Avenue. A shed next to the motel, a tree, and part of the hotel roof were on fire. Officers responded to assist the Estes Valley Fire Protection District. The hotel was evacuated and firefighters were able to quickly extinguish the fire before it spread further. No injuries were reported.

On July 26, at approximately 12:47 a.m., an EPPD officer and a deputy with the Larimer County Sheriff's Department (LCSO) contacted a male at the Estes Park Visitor Center, 500 Big Thompson Ave. The man, who was later identified as Thomas Chase Hill (11/04/1992), was in possession of the stolen sword. Hill was arrested and booked into the Larimer County Jail, where he remains in custody.

As EPPD officers and a detective continued the investigation, additional evidence was recovered linking Hill to the motel fire. After reviewing the case with EPPD on July 29, the Larimer County District Attorney's office intends to file the following charges:

- 1st Degree Arson (F3)
- Criminal Mischief (F6)
- 2nd Degree Burglary (F4)
- Theft (M2)

Hill was issued a \$750.00 total cash bond by the Larimer County Court.

Police Chief Ian Stewart noted, "First Responders took decisive action the night of these events to assure the safety of our community. EPPD followed up with an intensive investigation over the next several days to ensure all aspects of these crimes were investigated and properly charged. I am thankful we were able to bring swift resolution to these incidents." The Estes Park Police Department would like to thank the Estes Valley Fire Protection District, Larimer County Sheriff's Department, and the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention & Control for assisting with this case.



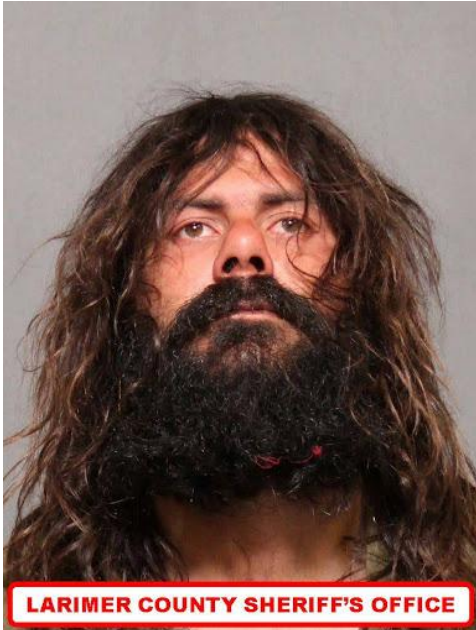
# Town of Estes Park

## News Release

---

The charges are merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

A booking photo of Thomas Hill is below, courtesy of LCSO.



---

Media contact:  
Kate Miller  
Public Information Officer  
[kmiller@estes.org](mailto:kmiller@estes.org)  
[970-577-3701](tel:970-577-3701)