

Man Arrested for Firing at Utility Workers

December 26, 2012

On Wednesday, December 26, 2012 at approximately 12:00 AM, Sheriff's Deputies responded to the 4200 block of Holland Drive, off of Brown's Bridge Road in Gainesville, regarding a report of an armed subject who had fired at utility workers.

Upon arrival, Deputies discovered that an electrical utility crew was in the area attempting to restore power due to trees that had fallen on the power lines. The utility workers reported that as they were assessing part of the problem outside a residence, the occupant stepped outside and began cursing and threatening them with a handgun before firing at least two shots in their direction. The utility workers, who were not injured, fled the area and called 911.

The perpetrator, later identified as 62 year-old Donald Josh Deal, retreated into his residence and refused to exit when ordered to do so by Deputies, prompting the response of the Sheriff's Office SWAT team. SWAT commanders began negotiations with Mr. Deal, and at approximately 2:00 AM, he voluntarily exited his residence and was taken into custody without further incident.

Deputies booked Deal into the Hall County Jail, where he being held on two counts of Aggravated Assault. Bond has not yet been set, pending his first appearance.

This case remains under investigation by the Hall County Sheriff's Office, Criminal Investigations Division.