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**Sheriff Lou Vallario**  
**Garfield County, Colorado**

## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Date: May 25, 2024

Time: 8:50 AM

Title: Illegal Fireworks Leads to Wildland Fire and Arrest

**IMPORTANT:** Please direct any media requests to the contact above. Do not contact the Garfield County Emergency Communications Center or Patrol staff for media requests.

GARFIELD COUNTY, CO. –



Garfield County Deputies along with Grand Valley Fire Protection District responded to a brush fire in the area of Lodgepole Circle in Battlement Mesa on 05-24-24 around noon. Upon arrival, approximately 1 acre of brush and grass were on fire. The fire destroyed fences and several houses were in danger. Deputies along with Fire personnel were able to extinguish the fire quickly.

Deputies investigated the fire and discovered that the fire was ignited by illegal fireworks. Deputies executed a search warrant on a residence in the area and discovered illegal fireworks and 16.7 grams of methamphetamine.

Two subjects were arrested for multiple charges including 4<sup>th</sup> degree arson and possession of a schedule II controlled substance.

As Garfield County begins to enter the hotter summer months, The Sheriff's Office would like to remind the public of the dangers of illegal fireworks.

Here are a few guidelines to help you stay safe and stay Legal while in Garfield County and most of Colorado:

- 1) In Colorado, even on private lands, it is illegal to possess any firework product that has been deemed illegal by the state. Beware when bringing fireworks into Colorado from other states, as many of these fireworks are illegal in Colorado.
- 2) Firecrackers or any form of firework that is propelled into the air, rather the entire incendiary or only a portion of it is fired into the air is illegal to use unless you are a licensed professional with a valid permit.
- 3) The use of fireworks of any type, flares, or other incendiary devices, including exploding targets, are always prohibited on Federal Lands; including BLM and Forest Service lands.

The SPEAR Task Force, the Parachute Police Department, Grand Valley Fire Protection District, Colorado River Fire Rescue and the Garfield County Emergency Communication Authority assisted Garfield County Sheriff's Office Deputies.

All subjects are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

**Additional information will be released as it becomes available.**

*The mission of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is to provide solutions for the people through professional, ethical and compassionate conduct.*

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