



U.S. Department of Justice

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ROCKFORD MAN SENTENCED TO 46 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR POSSESSING A PIPE BOMB AS A CONVICTED FELON

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; PAUL LOGLI, Winnebago County State's Attorney; RICHARD MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff; and STEVEN PUGH, Rockford Police Chief, today made the following announcement:

United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard today sentenced **JAMES E. WRIGHT**, 34 (DOB: 8/28/1970), of Rockford, Illinois, to 46 months in federal prison without parole for possessing a destructive device (pipe bomb) as a convicted felon. The court also ordered Wright to serve three years of supervised release following his release from prison, and to pay a \$100 fine, a \$100 special assessment, and \$2,500 in restitution to the Rockford Park District for the tree he destroyed.

At the time of his guilty plea on April 13, 2005, Wright, a convicted felon, admitted that he possessed a pipe bomb on December 29, 2004. Wright admitted in his plea agreement that on December 15, 2004, he purchased some of the parts needed to assemble a pipe bomb at a Rockford hardware store. Wright further admitted that on December 29, 2004, he assembled a pipe bomb, took it to Ingersoll Park in Rockford, where he placed it inside the base of a tree and lit the fuse. The pipe bomb then exploded setting the tree on fire and destroying the tree. Under the federal statutes prohibiting possession of firearms by convicted felons, firearms include destructive devices such as the pipe bomb possessed by Wright.

Wright was arrested by Rockford Police officers on December 31, 2004 and has been in custody since his arrest.

The case was investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, and the Rockford Police Department. It was prosecuted in United States District Court by Assistant United States Attorney JOSEPH C. PEDERSEN.

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