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## CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

August 31, 2011

## **DUMPSTER FIRES**

\*\*\*Surveillance Footage Available for Media Pick-Up in FLPD Lobby\*\*\*

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is investigating a string of dumpster fires that occurred on the afternoon of August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in the City of Fort Lauderdale. The fires were set at different locations throughout the City between the hours of 4:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M.

Investigators believe that the suspect would locate a dumpster, set it ablaze, and then find a way to indirectly notify first responders of the fire. Some of the dumpsters actually caught fire, while others only smoldered and extinguished themselves.

Investigators were able to locate surveillance footage from a gas station near one of the scenes. The footage shows a subject pulling up to a gas station in his vehicle, driving from the area of the arson. The subject exits his vehicle and notifies the gas station attendant of the dumpster fire. The subject then lingers for a few moments at the gas station, briefly running back towards the fire, and then drives away from the gas pumps.

This person of interest has been described as a bald white male, last seen wearing a yellow tank-top and khaki shorts.

The locations of the dumpster fires throughout the City are as follows:

- 1441 Cordova Road at approximately 4:09 P.M.
- 2501 East Sunrise Boulevard at approximately 4:59 P.M.
- 1147 Seabreeze Boulevard at approximately 6:49 P.M.
- 1140 Seabreeze Boulevard at approximately 7:15 P.M.
- 1180 Seabreeze Boulevard at approximately 7:15 P.M.
- 750 Southeast 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue at approximately 7:53 P.M.
- 509 Southeast 9<sup>th</sup> Street at approximately 8:02 P.M.

The dumpster fires did not cause any injuries, nor was there any serious property damage outside of the dumpsters. Detectives are urging anyone with further information about the identity of this person of interest to contact Detective McCoy at 954-828-6002 or Broward County Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS.