



PRESS RELEASE

Arsonist Given 10 Years in Prison for 2011 Fire July 2014

Patrick “Kirk” Pitzer, 49, was convicted by a Brazos County jury on Monday of Arson, a second degree felony. The jury reached their verdict after deliberating for just over two hours. Today, following conviction, the same jury heard evidence in the punishment phase of trial. The jury deliberated for just over four hours before sentencing Pitzer to 10 years in prison.

Assistant District Attorneys Kara Comte and Ekua Assabill presented evidence that Pitzer started the fire on May 1, 2011 in an empty house across from his home. Prosecutors proved that the fire was set to retaliate against the owner of the home. Bryan Fire Marshalls were led to Pitzer after speaking with witnesses in the neighborhood and finding shoes in the defendant’s home that matched prints found in the gasoline used to start the fire.

During the punishment phase, prosecutors introduced evidence that Pitzer had previously been placed on deferred adjudication probation in Tarrant County for Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Pitzer was eligible to receive probation for the jury because he had never been convicted of a felony. Pitzer testified during the punishment phase on his own behalf and denied starting the fire, while requesting the jury give him probation.

“Fire does not discriminate. Individuals who start fires damage property, but more importantly, endanger the lives of the people in the neighborhood and the first responders who are called to the scene. The Bryan Fire Marshalls worked hard on this investigation and did a great job. The jury’s verdict that arsonists who disregard property and the safety of others will not be tolerated in Brazos County.” - Kara Comte, Assistant District Attorney

