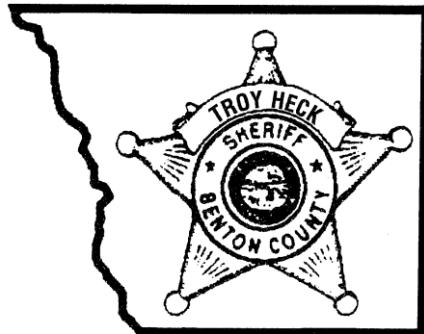


# BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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**Troy Heck, Sheriff**  
**Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy**

## PRESS RELEASE

**DATE: 05-09-2023**

### **AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF TROY HECK**

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 the Benton County Sheriff's Office went to a residence in Minden Township in response to a mental health crisis and residential fire which ended with the arrest of one man.

At about 1:00 pm the Benton County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a man stating that Justin Michael Kriedeman, age 29 of Sauk Rapids, was having a mental health emergency and making threatening statements about a gun. The 911 caller indicated Kriedeman had a gun and was threatening to burn down Kriedeman's own residence, located in the 7000 block of Hwy 95 NE. Deputies, firefighters, and paramedics responded to the residence on Hwy 95 and found a detached garage on the property completely engulfed in flames. Deputies located the 911 caller who stated earlier in the day during a telephone conversation, Kriedeman was exhibiting symptoms of a mental health emergency and had threatened to start Kriedeman's garage on fire. The 911 caller stated that following these threats, he arrived at the residence to find that the detached garage was on fire. The 911 caller told deputies he encountered Kriedeman at the property who stated he had a gun. The 911 caller told deputies Kriedeman attempted to leave the residence in a minivan, but the 911 caller used his own vehicle to stop Kriedeman from driving away. The 911 caller stated Kriedeman attempted to leave the residence through another exit, but he again attempted to prevent Kriedeman from leaving. The 911 caller stated their vehicles collided several times as he attempted to prevent Kriedeman from leaving. The 911 caller told deputies Kriedeman crashed the minivan he was driving into a shed on the property and fled out sight.

As deputies were gathering this information, the sound of gun shots were heard coming from nearby. Deputies began attempting to secure the scene to make it safe for more responders to arrive and noted the fire had spread to the attached garage of the home. Deputies also heard additional gunshots coming from the area. Kriedeman was found near outbuildings on the property. Deputies approached Kriedeman who struggled against their attempts to secure him. Kriedeman was eventually taken into custody without incident. Several firearms were found near where Kriedeman was taken into custody.

Once the scene was secured, firefighters from the Sauk Rapids Fire Department and Foley Fire Department began the work of extinguishing the flames that had now also engulfed the home. Both the home and the detached garage were severely damaged by the fire.

Kriedeman was taken to the St. Cloud Hospital by Mayo Ambulance where he was evaluated and stabilized. Kriedeman was released from the St. Cloud Hospital and transported to the Benton County Jail where he is being held on charges of 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Arson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Assault, and 5<sup>th</sup> Degree Controlled Substance Crime.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office was assisted in this investigation by members of the Minnesota State Fire Marshall's Office, Foley Police Department, Minnesota State Patrol, Minnesota DNR Conservation Officers, Sauk Rapids Police Department, Central MN VOTF, and Sartell Police Department.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Heck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Troy" on the left and "Heck" on the right, connected by a vertical line.

Troy Heck

Benton County Sheriff