

## Armed man's overnight police standoff ends in destroyed home

*William Chad Coleman charged with aggravated assault Tuesday, accused of arson*



*Frisco police officers say William Chad Coleman set fire to a house in the 6100 block of Arlington Drive during a standoff that followed a domestic dispute with his fiancée. Photo by Kelsey Kruzich.*

**By Anthony Tosie**

Frisco police arrested an armed suspect in the 6100 block of Arlington Drive early Tuesday morning after an overnight standoff left a house in ruins.

Law enforcement officials say William Chad Coleman, 38, set fire to his house near the end of a three-hour standoff stemming from a domestic disturbance incident. Initially, officers came to the residence after Coleman's fiancée said he threatened her with a handgun.

Coleman's fiancée told police she fled the location immediately after the confrontation. The woman, whose name was not released, drove to the Frisco Police Department to report the incident. A spokesman for the department said Coleman initially followed his fiancée but soon returned to the house.

"The incident started in the house, but when she left the house he started chasing her [in a separate vehicle]," Officer Greg Barnett said. "He tried, according to the victim, to run her off the road a couple of times, but he stopped chasing her once he realized she was coming to the Police Department."

Two officers arrived at the house shortly before 10 p.m. Monday to question Coleman, a former Dallas firefighter with a prior domestic disturbance conviction. The officers reported seeing Coleman carrying multiple firearms; Barnett said an officer noticed "a pistol on his hip and a couple

of rifles.” The department’s special operations unit responded to the scene and surrounded the house after the initial response officers reported the firearms.

Police communicated with Coleman several times during the incident through a series of 911 calls.

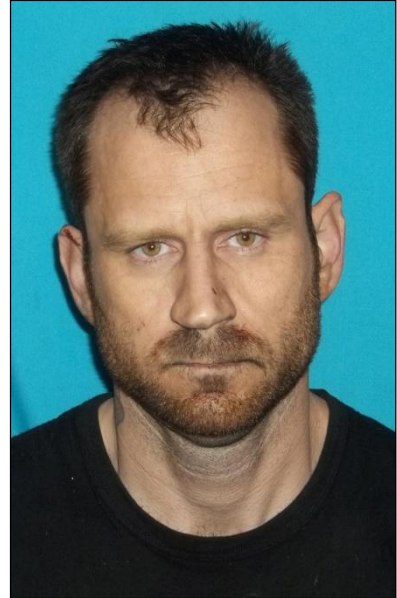
During those calls, police say Coleman threatened that he would come out in a “blazing fire.” Barnett said Coleman admitted to “smoking meth” at one point in the conversations. Officers said they heard several windows in the home being broken following the calls, and a fire that caused several explosions began at about 12:30 a.m. in the house’s garage.

Next-door neighbors on both sides of Coleman’s house were evacuated from their homes and placed in police cars until the standoff ended and the house was extinguished. Police also contacted several neighbors by phone when the standoff began.

Barnett said officers heard at least five explosions, although he noted the explosions were from common objects in the garage and weren’t traps. The first explosion, which Barnett said was likely from a propane tank, was so severe that the garage door expanded outward.

Officers said they believe the subsequent four explosions were likely from tires on a vehicle in the garage.

Coleman exited the house through a window about 45 minutes after the fire began and surrendered to police without incident. He was then taken to Centennial Medical Center, where he was treated for smoke inhalation. No one else was injured.



*William Chad Coleman*

Following treatment, Coleman was transported to the Frisco Jail and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. His bond was set at \$150,000. Arson charges are pending the result of further investigation.

Criminal records indicate Coleman was arrested in 2004 and accused of beating his girlfriend at the time with a hammer. He was found guilty of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and served four years in prison.

Neighbors said they didn’t know Coleman or the victim well, noting that the couple seemed to keep to themselves. Several neighbors also said nothing seemed out of the ordinary about Coleman or his fiancée.

“It’s really scary that sometimes you don’t even know your own neighbor,” said Sharon Ambro, who lives on the same street as the couple. “[The victim] came to pick up her two dogs [that escaped the house] from us and left, but she didn’t say anything – she was visibly shaken. I’m so sad this happened to her.”