



Ardmore Police Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Arrested After Exposure to Fumes

On Tuesday, 20 January 2009, at approximately 6:15pm, officers were notified of a vehicle in distress at Tiffany Plaza on West Broadway. Passing motorists told dispatchers they saw a large amount of smoke coming from a silver pickup which was parked near a pizza parlor at that shopping center. Upon arrival, officers discovered that the vehicle was not in distress so much as its driver, 28-year old Donald Adams. Adams began driving erratically around the parking area when officers arrived on the scene. Officers activated emergency lights and attempted to stop the pickup, which proceeded to drive around the parking lot in an unusual fashion. The driver eventually stopped the vehicle and got out. When officers approached the gentleman and his vehicle, they were overwhelmed by the stench of ammonia. The Ardmore Fire Department's hazardous materials team was then called, as well as Ardmore PD narcotics investigators.

Further investigation would reveal that Adams had been transporting anhydrous ammonia in an unapproved container which apparently ruptured in transport, exposing him to a large amount of hazardous fumes. The driver is believed to have placed the container in a trash dumpster just before officers arrived. The hazardous ammonia was cleaned up, and the case was turned over to narcotics investigators, as anhydrous ammonia is a key ingredient in manufacturing methamphetamine.

Adams was arrested pending charges of transporting anhydrous ammonia in an unapproved container, possession of drug paraphernalia, and reckless driving. He initially refused medical treatment at the scene, but later was treated by medics at jail. The responding officers experienced some discomfort as a result of exposure to the fumes, but did not require medical attention.

ADAMS

