



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Northern District of Illinois
Western Division*

*Joseph C. Pedersen
Assistant United States Attorney*

*308 West State Street - Room 300
Rockford, Illinois 61101*

*PH: (815) 987-4444
FAX: (815) 987-4236*

April 13, 2005

ROCKFORD MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHARGES OF POSSESSING A PIPE BOMB AS A CONVICTED FELON

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, PAUL LOGLI, Winnebago County State's Attorney; RICHARD MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff; and STEVEN PUGH, Rockford Police Chief, today made the following announcement:

JAMES E. WRIGHT, 34 (DOB: 8/28/1970), of Rockford, Illinois, plead guilty today to charges of possessing a destructive device (pipe bomb) as a convicted felon.

In pleading guilty, Wright, a convicted felon, admitted that he possessed a pipe bomb on December 29, 2004. Wright admitted in his plea agreement that on December 15, 2004, he purchased some of the parts needed to assemble a pipe bomb at a Rockford hardware store. Wright further admitted that on December 29, 2004, he assembled a pipe bomb, took it to Ingersoll Park in Rockford, where he placed it inside the base of a tree and lit the fuse. The pipe bomb then exploded setting the tree on fire and destroying the tree. Under the federal statutes prohibiting possession of firearms by convicted felons, firearms include destructive devices such as the pipe bomb possessed by Wright.

Wright was arrested by Rockford Police officers on December 31, 2004 and has been in custody since his arrest.

Sentencing for Wright will be conducted on Friday, June 17, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. Wright faces a possible maximum penalty of up to ten years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000, a term of supervised release of up to three years, as well as any restitution ordered by the court. Wright's actual sentence will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The case was investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, and the Rockford Police Department. It is being prosecuted in United States District Court by Assistant United States Attorney JOSEPH C. PEDERSEN.

#