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Rollover crash hit and run and trespassing suspect arrested

SOUTH JORDAN, UT – On Saturday, April 25 at 4:57 a.m., officers with the South Jordan Police Department responded to 11304 S Great Neck Drive; 4150 W on the report of a rollover. A black Ford F150 was traveling on 11400 S and left the roadway, running through a vinyl fence and rolling over into the backyard of the residence – narrowly missing the house. Damage estimates to the property are over \$1,000 while the truck was considered a total loss.

The driver of the vehicle fled the scene and no other vehicles were involved. The suspect driver left his driver license in the vehicle identifying him as Landon Terry Defa (09-24-81 age 33) of West Jordan.

At 11:23 a.m., South Jordan officers were contacted by Utah County Sheriff Deputies regarding a suspect in-custody in Eagle Mountain. A suspect was found hiding in the truck of a vehicle that originated in South Jordan. This suspect was Mr. Defa.

The victim, name not released, stated she is a realtor and left her residence in South Jordan (11317 S Nassau Way; 4120 W) towards Eagle Mountain. While at one residence in Eagle Mountain, her car alarm went off and everything was okay. She then proceeded to a second residence in Eagle Mountain and after showing that house, she proceeded back to her vehicle where she saw the backseat down and legs sticking out. The victim immediately called police.

Officers took custody of Mr. Defa and interviewed him regarding the trespassing and hit and run. Mr. Defa admitted to being the driver of the truck and he was, “running for his life,” (for unknown reasons). Mr. Defa stated after crashing, he fled on foot. While running, he entered a garage through an unsecured side door. While inside the garage, Mr. Defa entered the vehicle parked inside, folded the backseat down and hid inside the trunk until located by officers several hours later. Mr. Defa also admitted to using Heroin.

Mr. Defa did complain of injuries and was taken to a local hospital for treatment and not transported to jail. Mr. Defa was issued a summons on charges of reckless driving, hit and run and trespassing. Mr. Defa does have a criminal history related to drugs, DUI, assault, unlawful

detention and robbery. Prior booking photographs should be available from the Salt Lake County Jail.

“We are very fortunate that the suspect was only seeking a hiding spot. This could have been a serious and tragic scenario if this suspect had intentions of stealing this vehicle or harming this individual. It’s a great reminder to double-check that all doors and windows to your residence are secured at night,” Master Officer Samuel Winkler, South Jordan Police Department.

For additional information, please contact Officer Samuel Winkler of the South Jordan City Police Department by cell (801) 330-2183 (swinkler@sjc.utah.gov).

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The City of South Jordan, one of the fastest growing cities in the United States, is located 20 miles southwest of Salt Lake City, and home to more than 64,000 residents. In 2010, 2012, and 2014, South Jordan was named one of the Top 20 “Best Place to Live in America” by Money Magazine.