



**TANEY COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CARL THOMPSON GETS CONSECUTIVE TIME FOR BURGLARY AND RESISTING**

FORSYTH, MO – Taney County Prosecuting Attorney, Jeffrey M. Merrell announced today that CARL E. THOMPSON dob: 07/20/1964 of Rockaway Beach was sentenced by Taney County Circuit Judge Mark Orr to seven (7) years for the class C felony of burglary in the second degree, seven (7) years for the class C felony of stealing, and four years (4) for the class D felony of resisting arrest. Probation was denied and the seven (7) year sentences are to run consecutive to the four (4) year sentence for a total sentence of eleven (11) years.

On June 16, 2008, a burglary was reported at the radio tower site located on Windmill Road in Hollister, Missouri. At the site, the building had been broken into and copper grounding cable, circuit boards, headsets and other communication equipment was missing. Fiber optic cabling, and a halo grounding system for telecommunications were also damaged in the theft. The total damage and theft to the site exceeded \$75,000 dollars.

On June 22, 2009, deputies from the Taney County Sheriff's department responded to the same location in response to a burglar alarm reporting movement inside the building. Deputies from the Taney County Sherriff's Department responded and once again observed evidence of a break-in. On the side of the building, the defendant, CARL E. THOMPSON was located standing on top of an air conditioning unit just inside the fence of the compound. CARL E. THOMPSON was pulling pieces of copper out of the air conditioning unit. A deputy ordered CARL E. THOMPSON to stop and identify himself. CARL E. THOMPSON fled the scene and the deputy but was later apprehended with the use of a taser. Inside the building deputies recovered a knife with the initials "Carl T" engraved on the side, and from the defendant's vehicle deputies recovered items from both the June 16<sup>th</sup> and June 22<sup>nd</sup> theft.

In response to this sentence Taney County Prosecuting Attorney, Jeffrey M. Merrell stated: "We believe the judge handed down a consecutive sentence in this instance because this theft could have affected telecommunications for the entire Taney County area. Copper theft has been a real problem in our region for quite some time due to the increasing value of copper. This sentence should hopefully send a message to those willing to trade in stolen copper that you will end up in prison."

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