

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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AIRPORT POLICE INCIDENT

An early-morning theft from a Spokane International Airport baggage storage area led to the arrest today of a 53-year-old man and his 58-year-old wife.

Airport police officers, Airport fire fighters, and Spokane County Fire District 10 EMT's responded to the baggage claim area after receiving a 9-1-1 call for assistance. When they arrived, they interviewed Charles R. and Ivalyn Graser and determined there was no emergency.

Approximately, 3-hours later the officers learned the couple had reportedly stolen a sleeping bag from an airline's baggage storage closet. They also learned that Charles Graser had a misdemeanor warrant out for his arrest.

When they attempted to arrest Mr. Graser, he resisted and had to be placed on the floor. When he refused to remove his hands from beneath his chest, officers applied a burst of pepper spray to gain his compliance.

Mr. Graser was restrained and, with the help of Spokane County Sheriff's deputies, was placed in a Spokane Police cruiser for transport to jail. The misdemeanor warrant was ultimately determined to be invalid, but Mr. Graser was booked into jail for Third Degree Theft and Resisting Arrest.

Although he attempted to kick sheriff's deputies and attempted to kick out windows in the police cruiser, he was not charged with those offenses.

Mrs. Graser was cited for Third Degree Theft and released.

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