



# VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Jason Salazar, Chief of Police*

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\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*

January 1, 2022

**VPD Report Number:** 22-000080

**Date/Time Occurred:** 1/01/2022 at 0208 hours

**Type of Incident:** Arson, Felon in Possession of a Loaded Firearm

**Location:** 1300 block of W Porter, Visalia, CA

**Name of Business (if applicable):**

**Suspect:**

**Age:**

**Arrested:**

1. Shelton, Eric
- 2.

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Yes

**Details:** This morning at approximately 0208 hours the Visalia Police Department and the Visalia Fire Department received a report of a structure fire in the 1300 block of W Porter. Upon arrival, units discovered a home under construction completely engulfed by fire. While the fire department was fighting that blaze, a second fire was discovered inside another home under construction also in the 1300 block of W Porter. That fire was quickly extinguished. The Visalia Police Department Property Crimes Unit was contacted and took over the investigation. During the investigation video surveillance was located of a subject leaving the area just before the fire was reported. A description of the subject was given to patrol and Eric Shelton was contacted a short distance away matching the description in the video. Shelton was found to be in possession of a loaded handgun as well. As the investigation continued, a third fire was discovered inside a portable bathroom near the intersection of Giddings and Sedona. Evidence at the scene indicated Shelton was involved in all three of the fires. He was ultimately transported and booked into the Tulare County Adult Pretrial Facility for Arson and being a felon in possession of a loaded firearm.



**Arresting / Investigating Officer:** Patrol, Property Crimes

**Supervisor:** C. Brown, S133

