



City of Lawrence  
Douglas County  
FIRE MEDICAL

Media Release  
Fire at Haskell Indian Nations University  
Arrest Made

For Immediate Release: Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Media Release

LAWRENCE, KS – The Lawrence Police Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation made an arrest this afternoon in connection with the ceremonial tipi fire that occurred at Haskell Indian Nations University on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Ryan Dekayouma Simpson, a 32-year-old Lawrence resident, was taken into custody and booked into the Douglas County Jail on suspicion of arson and trespassing.

Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical would like to thank the Lawrence Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and Haskell Indian Nations University, for their assistance during this investigation.

All agencies collaborated and maximized communication, which resulted in a quick investigation and arrest.

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, around 4:35 a.m., LDCFM responded to a tipi on fire near the intersection of Barker and Indian Avenue. Upon arrival, firefighters extinguished a small amount of fire remaining on the tipi with a fire extinguisher and began a joint investigation with partner agencies.

-End-

For Further Information Contact:

Name: Tom Fagan, Divison Chief  
Phone: 785-830-7002  
Email: [tfagan@lawrenceks.org](mailto:tfagan@lawrenceks.org)