



Barre City Police Department

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Larry E. Eastman, Jr.
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INCIDENT: 25BA010900 Attempted Homicide

CASE OFFICER: Off. James Baril/Cpl. Jesse Fecher

DATE/TIME: 12/17/25

LOCATION: 90 Merchant Street, Barre Vermont

VIOLATION(s): Attempted Homicide -2nd Degree

ACCUSED:

Eric Shepard DOB: 06-28-1970
Address: No permanent address



Press Release

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT: On December 17, 2025, at approximately 3:30 AM hours Barre City officers were called to a residence along the unit block of Merchant Street for a report of a subject having been struck in the head with an axe during a disturbance. Upon arrival, a 55-year-old male victim was found to have been struck in the head multiple times with a pick-axe hatchet. The victim was transported to the Central Vermont Medical Center, and later to the University of Vermont Medical Center. His condition was not known at the time of this release. The alleged assailant, identified as 55-year-old Eric Shepard with no permanent address, had fled the scene.

At approximately 5:45 AM hours while investigating this incident, Barre City officers responded to a motel along the 300 block of N. Main Street where Shepard was alleged to have gotten into another disturbance and was reported to have choked a 77-year-old male before, again fleeing the scene. This incident remains under investigation.

At approximately 6:30 AM hours, Shepard called the police department to turn himself in. Shepard was taken into custody without incident at a convenience store located along the 300 block of N. Main Street. Shepard, who was on parole for a prior assault and robbery charge as well as a burglary charge was turned over to Barre Probation and Parole and subsequently lodged without bail pending a parole hearing.

Shepard was further wanted as a suspect in multiple alleged retail theft occurrences at several area convenience stores where it was reported that he stole several cartons of cigarettes, totaling approximately \$1500. Six incidents of retail theft occurred between December 11th and December 16th in Barre, Montpelier and Randolph where Shepard was determined to be the alleged suspect.

Shepard is due to appear in Washington Superior Court on December 18, 2025, at 12:30 hours to answer the charge of Attempted Homicide – 2nd Degree. He was further issued several citations to appear in Orange Superior Court and Washington Superior Court on January 28, 2026, and January 29, 2026, respectively to answer the charges of Retail Theft. Further charges may be pending. Some of the incidents remain under investigation.

The Barre City Police Department does not generally release the names of victims of assault.