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(Neb.)-Arrest Made After Chadron Child Left Alone During Snow Storm



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 04/15/2013 09:39 AM

(Chadron)-The Chadron Police Department made an arrest last week on charges of child abuse after a young child was left alone in Chadron during the winter storm. According to a press release from the Chadron PD, the department was contacted around 8 pm Tuesday by Natasha Afraid Of Bear who asked if an officer would check on her 8-year-old child. She stated she made arrangements for the child to stay with a friend during the storm, but when officers checked the residence in Chadron, the occupants advised they did not know of the arrangements Afraid Of Bear mentioned, and did not know of the whereabouts of the child.

Officers began searching for the child, and discovered the child was left home alone since Monday evening while Afraid Of Bear was out of town in South Dakota. Through the course of the investigation, subsequent searches and interviews, officers discovered that no arrangements had been made for the child to stay with anyone during the storm, which prompted a winter storm warning.

The search continued for the child during the night, and the child was finally located on Wednesday morning at a residence in Chadron. The child was taken into protective custody and then released to Nebraska Health and Human Services.

Afraid Of Bear was arrested for Class IIIA Felony Child Abuse, which is knowingly and intentionally causing or permitting a minor child to be placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health. She was transported to the Dawes County Jail.

The Chadron Police Department was assisted by the Dawes County Attorney's Office and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

(Information Submitted By The Chadron Police Department)