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## Purdue police arrest man on suspicion of failing to register as sex offender

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Purdue police responding to a report of two suspicious people on Wednesday (Jan. 24) arrested a man near Ross-Ade Stadium on charges of failing to register as a sex offender.

Timothy Lee Cook, 35, of Lafayette faces two preliminary charges of failure to register as a sex offender, said Capt. John Cox. He was taken to the Tippecanoe County Jail and was being held in lieu of a \$5,000 bond. A second man who was with Cook was not charged.

According to police reports, officers were sent to the stadium area where they found the two men. Cook and the other man told police they visit campus about three times a week to look into dumpsters and alleys for items they might be able to salvage.

Cox said police ran a background check on both men through national law enforcement databases and found that Cook was wanted on multiple warrants, including one in Maine for failing to register as a sex offender. Cook also had used six different aliases in the past, Cox said.

Cook told police that he had spent five years in prison for the rape of a young girl in Washington and had been arrested in Georgia for assaulting a work supervisor. Cook also told police he had never registered as a sex offender while living in Lafayette, Cox said.

Failing to register as a sex offender is a Class D felony punishable by up to three years in prison and a maximum fine of \$10,000.

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