



NEWS RELEASE

JOHN OXENDINE
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER
INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMMISSIONER
COMPTROLLER GENERAL

Seventh Floor, West Tower
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
www.gainsurance.org

For Immediate Release
June 11, 2008

Contact: Glenn Allen or Wayne Whitaker
404-651-7902
inscomm@oci.ga.gov

OXENDINE ANNOUNCES REWARD IN COLUMBIA COUNTY ARSON CASE

Atlanta - Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John W. Oxendine, Columbia County Fire Chief Doug Cooper and Bud Ausborn of the Georgia Arson Control Board, Inc., today announced the presentation of a \$4,000 reward check to a Columbia County citizen who provided information that led to the conviction of two arsonists.

The check was presented to Melanie Sprouse, an Assistant Principal at Lakeside High School, in a brief ceremony at the Fire Department's Main Headquarters, Commissioner Oxendine said.

The reward was given for information that Sprouse provided that led to the arrest and conviction of two juveniles for a 2007 woodland fire in Columbia County. Both juveniles pleaded guilty to the crime and were sentenced to eighteen months probation, and ordered to serve a period of detention in a short-term treatment program.

Commissioner Oxendine and the Georgia Arson Control Board, Inc., sponsor the Georgia Arson Control Reward Program and the Georgia Arson Hotline. Rewards of up to \$10,000 are given for information leading to the arrest and conviction of an arsonist. Anyone with information about a suspicious fire is asked to call the hotline at **1-800-282-5804**. Calls are taken 24 hours a day; callers can choose to remain anonymous.