



# NEWS RELEASE

**RALPH HUDGENS**  
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE  
SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER  
INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMMISSIONER

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## HUDGENS: CANDLER COUNTY FIRE WAS INTENTIONAL

**Atlanta** – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens announced today that a fire that damaged the gymnasium of the Boys and Girl Club of Candler County was intentionally set.

The building located at 421 West Vertia Street, in downtown Metter, sustained extensive smoke and heat damage and initial losses are estimated at \$200,000. The fire was reported this morning around 8:30 a.m.

“Because the investigation is continuing, we can’t discuss specific details of the way this fire was set, but we can say that it was arson,” Hudgens said.

Hudgens is asking anyone with information about this fire to call his Arson Hotline at 1-800-282-5804. Rewards of up to \$10,000 are given for information leading to the arrest and conviction of an arsonist. Calls are taken 24 hours a day; callers can choose to remain anonymous.

Commissioner Hudgens’ fire unit is assisting the Metter Police Department and the Metter Fire Department in the investigation.