



State of Georgia
Department of Insurance

*2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
720 West Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
800-656-2298
Website: www.oci.ga.gov*

Ralph Hudgens
Commissioner of Insurance
Safety Fire Commissioner
Industrial Loan Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
March 28, 2018**

**Contact: Glenn Allen
Office: 404-463-0729**

HABERSHAM COUNTY BUSINESS FIRE RULED ARSON; REWARD OFFERED

Atlanta, GA - Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens said a fire yesterday at a hardware store in Habersham County was intentionally set.

The fire, which occurred around 4:45 p.m., heavily damaged a men's bathroom at Habersham Hardware & Home Center located at 5926 Highway 115 in Clarkesville, Ga. Store employees noticed smoke coming from the bathroom and called 911. An investigator in Hudgens' Fire Unit ruled the fire arson and estimated damages from the blaze at \$1,000.00

Commissioner Hudgens is asking anyone with information about this fire to call the Georgia 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.

The Habersham County Fire Department is assisting with the investigation.