



NEWS RELEASE

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HUDGENS ANNOUNCES REWARDS IN JACKSON COUNTY ARSON CASE

Atlanta - Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens and Bud Ausborn of the Georgia Arson Control Board, Inc., announced Wednesday the presentation of three reward checks totaling \$15,000 to citizens of Jackson County who provided information that led to the conviction of an arsonist.

Three checks in the amount of \$5,000 were presented to Brian Smith, State Fire Marshal Investigator, in a brief ceremony at the Department of Insurance and Safety Fire. Smith will forward the rewards to the recipients, who have chosen to remain anonymous, Commissioner Hudgens said.

Commissioner Hudgens and the Georgia Arson Control Board, Inc. (GAC), 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.

Since its inception in 1979, GAC has approved over 500 rewards totaling \$1.6 million.

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