



NEWS RELEASE

RALPH T. HUDGENS
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.oci.ga.gov

For Immediate Release
September 1, 2011

Contact: Mitch Madaglia
404-651-7902

PublicInformation@oci.ga.gov

HUDGENS ANNOUNCES REWARD IN WASHINGTON COUNTY ARSON CASE

Atlanta - Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens and Randy Bishop of the Georgia Arson Control Board, Inc., yesterday announced the presentation of two reward checks totaling \$8,000 to two citizens of Washington County. The individuals provided information that led to the conviction of an arsonist/murderer. Also present were Tennille Police Chief Joel Cochran, State Fire Marshall Investigator Alan Logue, Washington County Sheriff Thomas Smith, and Washington County Detectives Eric Burgamy, Trey Burgamy, and Daniel Douglas.

The checks, in the amounts of \$5,500 and \$2,500, were presented to the Washington County Sheriff's Office in a brief ceremony. The rewards will be forwarded 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.

###