



# 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](http://www.gainsurance.org)

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Contact: Glenn Allen or Wayne Whitaker  
404-651-7902  
[inscomm@oci.ga.gov](mailto:inscomm@oci.ga.gov)

## OXENDINE ANNOUNCES REWARDS IN STEPHENS COUNTY ARSON CASE

**Atlanta** - Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John W. Oxendine and Bud Ausborn of the Georgia Arson Control Board, Inc., today announced the presentation of four reward checks to citizens of Stephens County who provided information in an arson fire that led to the conviction of an arsonist.

The checks totaling \$9,000 were presented to Shannon Maxwell (\$3,500), Martha Maxwell (\$2,000), Brenda Appling (\$2,000) and Carolyn Fleming (\$1,500) in a brief ceremony at the Toccoa Fire Department, Commissioner Oxendine said.

The rewards were given for information that led to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in a June 2008 house fire in the city of Toccoa. The house was located at 232 West Spring Street.

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.

Since its inception in 1979, the Georgia Arson Control Program has approved 520 rewards totaling \$1,485,350.

Total property damage from arson fires that resulted in rewards since 2004 is approximately \$8,096,948.

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