



# 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.oci.ga.gov](http://www.oci.ga.gov)

For Immediate Release  
November 16, 2010

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

## **OXENDINE ANNOUNCES REWARDS IN FULTON AND SPALDING ARSON CASES**

**Atlanta** - Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John W. Oxendine, and Bud Ausborn of the Georgia Arson Control Board, Inc., today announced the presentation of two reward checks totaling \$4,300 to citizens of Atlanta and Griffin who provided information in separate fires that led to the conviction of arsonists.

The checks, in the amount of \$1,800 and \$2,500 respectively, were presented to Griffin Fire Chief Tommy Jones and Captain Cameron Dixon of the Atlanta Fire Department, in a brief ceremony at the Insurance Commissioner's Office. Chief Jones and Captain Dixon will forward the rewards to the recipients, who have chosen to remain anonymous, Oxendine said.

The rewards were given for information that led to the arrest and conviction of two arsonists.

Connie Huggins, 56, was convicted and sentenced to five years in prison for setting fire to numerous structures including a vacant house and the Agape Restoration Church in the Meriwether Street area of Griffin. The fires occurred between July and September 2009. In Atlanta, on October 16, 2009, Lester King set fire to the Big Bear Supermarket on Jonesboro Road causing \$60,000 in damages. King was convicted and given five years probation.

Commissioner Oxendine and the Georgia Arson Control Board, Inc., sponsor the Georgia Arson Control Reward Program. 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 520 rewards totaling \$1.5 million. Total property damage from arson fires that resulted in rewards since 2004 is approximately 8,096,948.