



NEWS RELEASE

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HUDGENS: MCDUFFIE COUNTY FIRE RULED ARSON

Atlanta – Fire Investigators with Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens office are investigating an early morning fire at the Raysville Marina store on Clarks Hill Lake, in McDuffie County.

The fire has been ruled arson, and Commissioner Hudgens asks that anybody with any information about this fire please call the Georgia Arson Hotline at 1-800-282-5804. Calls are taken 24 hours a day, seven days a week and callers may remain anonymous. Rewards of up to \$10,000 may be given for information leading to the arrest and conviction of an arsonist(s).

The single story, steel-frame structure located at 6584 Lincolnton Highway, Thomson, Ga., was destroyed by the fire. Dollar loss was estimated at \$75,000, Commissioner Hudgens said. The fire occurred about 5:30 a.m.

First-degree arson carries a penalty of up to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$50,000.