



For Immediate Release

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**State Fire Marshal Investigator Instrumental in
Stopping Holmes County Arsonist**

JACKSON – The joint efforts of the State Fire Marshal’s Office, in coordination with investigators from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), investigators from Holmes County law enforcement, and the city of Durant, have put an end to the two-week crime spree of a Holmes County arsonist.

This week the Holmes County Sheriff’s Office arrested 41-year-old Bruce S. Harrell of Durant and has charged him with six counts of arson in connection with three separate fires. Harrell is charged with setting three fires between July 19, 2009 and August 1, 2009, which destroyed approximately \$460,000 worth of property including an official city of Durant building and vehicle.

This marks the 83rd arrest this year for arson cases investigated by the State Fire Marshal’s Office.

“This was a very complex case and involved many hours of extensive investigation. Deputy Fire Marshal Carl Rayfield, who was assigned this case, is to be commended for his diligence and determination,” Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney said.

“He gave up days off, worked nights, weekends and was even called away from his own family birthday celebration to follow a lead. He exemplifies the dedication of all the Deputies of the State Fire Marshal’s Office in their efforts to put an end to arson.”

To find out about the State Fire Marshal's Arson Reward Program visit the Fire Marshal Pages of the Mississippi Insurance Department website at www.mid.state.ms.us.

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