



# MISSISSIPPI

## STATE FIRE MARSHAL

**MIKE CHANEY**  
State Fire Marshal

### PRESS RELEASE

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## **State Fire Marshal Special Response Team Instrumental in Arson Arrests**

Jackson, MS – Individuals conspiring to commit arson were caught in the act in Picayune, MS last week in a joint operation between the Pearl River County Sheriff's Office and the Special Response Team (SRT) of the Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office.

Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney today praised the operation that prevented a fire from being set.

"Teamwork was the key to preventing this fire, and the officers of the Pearl River County Sheriff's Office, the Lamar County Sheriff's Office and our Fire Marshal Special Response Team are to be commended for their swift action on this case," Chaney said.

The operation began with an anonymous tip to the Pearl River County Sheriff's Office that someone was planning on burning a house at 3626 Hwy. 43 N. in Picayune. Pearl River County Investigators contacted the State Fire Marshal's Office and the decision was made to activate the Special Response Team.

SRT members, a Pearl River County Sheriff's Office Investigator and a Lamar County Sheriff's Dept. sniper unit were dropped off and tracked through a heavily wooded area approximately ½ mile setting up surveillance in front of the residence.

The team observed and later arrested an individual who climbed on the roof of the home with a gas can.

The individual arrested on site was Mikel Milling of Slidell, LA. Subsequent investigation led to the arrest of two other individuals- Don Osborn of Picayune, MS and Joseph Gilley of Slidell, LA. All three individuals were charged with 4th-degree arson (attempting to burn) and conspiracy to commit arson.

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