



INSURANCE AND SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER

- State of Georgia -

NEWS RELEASE

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DOUGLAS COUNTY MAN SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS FOR ARSON

Atlanta, Georgia – On July 15, 2019, Christopher Hedgecock, 35, of Douglas, Georgia was sentenced to 30 years in prison with 20 to serve and ordered to pay \$10,000.00 in restitution for scheming with an employee to start a fire at his business on August 5th, 2014.

“Hedgecock was the owner of Town and Country Fabrics & Upholstery in the historical district of Douglasville. On the morning of August 5, 2014, Douglas County Fire Department responded to a fire at the business,” said Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King. “Numerous units responded to the fire that day and one firefighter was transported to the hospital with injuries sustained from fighting the fire.”

A follow up investigation resulted in the arrest of one of the employees, Derek Rosa, in January 2016. Rosa pleaded guilty to an arson charge in 2018, and Hedgecock chose to go to trial on his charges. The trial started on April 29 in Douglas County Superior Court and ended on May 6.

After only a day of deliberation by the jury, [Hedgecock was found guilty on three counts of arson and one count of insurance fraud.](#)

“Mr. Hedgecock showed no remorse for his crime, nor any appreciation of the danger he placed the firefighters in,” said Brett Adams, the Assistant District Attorney who tried the case. “He is an unrepentant criminal, and Douglas County is safer with him in prison.”

First Degree Arson is a felony punishable by a fine of up to \$50,000 or by a prison term between one and twenty years, or both. To report arson, call the Arson Hotline at 1-800-282-5804. Rewards are offered of up to \$10,000 for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of an arsonist. Calls are taken 24 hours a day, and callers can choose to remain anonymous.



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