



# INSURANCE AND SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER

- State of Georgia -

## *NEWS RELEASE*

**John F. King**

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## **TWO BLECKLEY COUNTY SUSPECTS ARRESTED FOR VARIOUS CHARGES**

**ATLANTA** – Investigators with the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner’s Office recently arrested Marshal Edward Harrell, 47, of Cochran, Georgia, for 1 count of Criminal Trespass and 1 count of Making False Statements, and Sandra Renee Layman, 36, of Cochran, Georgia, for 1 count of Criminal Trespass.

The charges stem from the individuals’ alleged involvement in [causing a fire that destroyed a Bleckley County abandoned structure off of East Beach Street on June 12](#). Layman was taken to the Cochran Police Department and bonded out a short time later. Harrell was taken to the Bleckley County Jail. Both suspects were arrested on June 18.

“The 4,116 square-foot, 108-year-old home was converted to four apartments some time ago, but has been vacant with no electrical service for about 15 years,” said Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King. “The abandoned structure was completely destroyed by the fire.”

Investigators with the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner’s Office assisted the City of Cochran Fire Department and the City of Cochran Police Department.

The two arrests bring the total number of individuals arrested with the assistance of the State’s Fire Investigations Unit in 2020 to 39.



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