



INSURANCE AND SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER

- State of Georgia -

NEWS RELEASE

John F. King

Commissioner of Insurance
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TWO STEPHENS COUNTY FIRES RULED ARSON

ATLANTA – Fire Investigators with the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner’s Office believe that two recent Stephens County fires may have been set by the same individual(s). Both fires were set on December 26 and both fires were set to abandon structures within half a mile of one another.

The first fire occurred around 2:00 P.M. on December 26 at 500 West Currahee Street in Toccoa, Georgia. The abandoned storage building was housing lumber from a business that had been on the property before being torn down several years ago. The metal 22-year-old, 1,500 square-foot structure was not connected to utilities at the time of the fire. The building was completely destroyed.

The second fire occurred shortly after 6:00 P.M. on December 26 at 167 Zebulon Branch Road in Toccoa, Georgia. The fire was set to an abandoned 100-year-old, 800 square-foot residence with no utilities connected to it at the time of the fire. This abandoned residence was also completely destroyed.

“Due to the similar circumstances surrounding these dangerous fires, we believe that the same person or group of people is responsible for setting them,” said Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King. “If you have any information on the individual or individuals responsible, I ask that you immediately call my Fire Investigations Unit at 1-800-282-5804.”

Rewards are offered of up to \$10,000 for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the arsonist(s). Calls are taken 24 hours a day and callers can choose to remain anonymous. Investigators with the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner’s Office are assisting the Carnes Creek Fire Department and the City of Toccoa Fire Department with this investigation.



500 West Currahee Street



167 Zebulon Branch Road

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