



# INSURANCE AND SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER

- State of Georgia -

## *NEWS RELEASE*

**John F. King**

Commissioner of Insurance  
Safety Fire Commissioner  
Industrial Loan Commissioner  
Twitter: @GA\_DOI  
Facebook: @GeorgiaDOI  
Instagram: @GeorgiaDOI

For Immediate Release  
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Contact: Brandon Wright  
Office: 404-463-0729

### **WHEELER COUNTY MAN ARRESTED FOR ARSON**

**ATLANTA** – On February 4, Investigators with the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner’s Office arrested William Jerome Gillis, 55, of Glenwood, and charged him with two counts of Arson in the First Degree. The charges stem from his alleged involvement in setting two fires on separate occasions in a mobile home salvage yard. Gillis was booked into the Wheeler County Jail, where he remains until he posts his \$50,000 bond.

The first fire occurred on January 26 and the second fire occurred on February 1. Both fires took place at an uninhabited mobile home salvage yard where Gills worked as a night watchman. Each of the fires spread to other uninhabited mobile homes outside of the units where the fires originated.

“This was an excellent joint effort by local and state investigators,” said Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King. “Not only does arson put lives in danger, it causes insurance premiums to rise and hardworking Georgians to suffer. Getting a man accused of crimes this severe off the streets is very important for the safety of the people in Wheeler County.”

Investigators with the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner’s Office assisted Wheeler County EMA and the Georgia Forestry Law Enforcement Division with this investigation. First Degree Arson is a felony punishable by a fine of no more than \$50,000 or by a prison term between one and twenty years, or both.



*Picture from Previous Arrest*

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