



# Office of Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire

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**JOHN F. KING**  
*Commissioner of Insurance  
and Safety Fire*

Two Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
West Tower, Suite 702  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Weston Burleson, 404-232-1388

Twitter: @GA\_DOI

Facebook: @GeorgiaDOI

Instagram: @GeorgiaDOI

### **TIFT COUNTY MAN CHARGED WITH INSURANCE FRAUD, ARSON**

**ATLANTA** – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King announced today that Antoniyo Bennett, 43, of Tifton, has been charged with insurance fraud and first-degree arson.

On March 30<sup>th</sup>, investigators from the State Fire Marshal’s Office responded to the scene of a residential structure fire that occurred on March 15<sup>th</sup> on Oakridge Church Road in Tifton.

Investigators were later given information from representatives of State Farm Insurance of potential illicit activity, who received the tip from an anonymous caller.

“A search warrant executed by our agency at a storage unit on April 7<sup>th</sup> led to the discovery of numerous articles of clothing and household items reported to have been destroyed in the fire,” said Commissioner King. “Investigators also found a large number of controlled substances in the unit, including marijuana and fentanyl, which were reported to the Tift County Drug Enforcement Unit.”

Mr. Bennett was taken into custody on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Our office is assisted Tift County Fire Rescue and the Tift County Sheriff’s Office on this investigation.



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*The mission of the Office Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire is to protect Georgia families by providing access to vital insurance products and safe buildings through fair regulation that creates economic opportunities for all Georgians.*