



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **HUDGENS: TOOMBS COUNTY INJURY FIRE RULED ARSON**

**Atlanta** – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens said a fire that injured a man and caused heavy damage to his manufactured home in Toombs County was intentionally set.

The fire, which occurred yesterday morning around 8:22 a.m., at 198 Dorsey Jordan Road in Lyons, caused an estimated loss of \$35,000. The owner of the home, Shannon Sharpe, 44, was severely burned by the fire and was transported to Doctors Hospital in Augusta.

The fire is being investigated by the State Fire Marshal's Arson Unit and the Toombs County Sheriff's Department.

First-degree arson is a felony, with a penalty of one to 20 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$50,000.

Commissioner Hudgens is asking anyone with information about this fire to call the Arson Hotline at **1-800-282-5804**. Rewards of up to \$10,000 are given for information leading to the arrest and conviction of an arsonist. Calls are taken 24 hours a day; callers can choose to remain anonymous. The Commissioner's Office and the Georgia Arson Control Board, Inc., sponsor the Georgia Arson Control Reward Program and the hotline.

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