



NEWS RELEASE

JOHN OXENDINE
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER
INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMMISSIONER
COMPTROLLER GENERAL

Seventh Floor, West Tower
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
www.gainsurance.org

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Contact: Glenn Allen or Wayne Whitaker
404-651-7902
inscomm@oci.ga.gov

OXENDINE ANNOUNCES ARREST IN BURKE COUNTY WADE PLANTATION ARSON

Atlanta – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John W. Oxendine announced that a suspect was arrested today in connection with a fire that destroyed a hunting cabin on the Wade Plantation in 2008.

Jerry Harden, 39, of 4303 Roswell Drive, Martinez, Ga., was arrested in Augusta and charged with second-degree arson. Harden is currently being held in the Richmond County Jail.

“Our investigation into the Wade Plantation fires is continuing, and I feel confident we’ll be able to close out this case soon,” Oxendine said.

On November 26, 2008 three fires at the plantation, which spans across Burke and Screven Counties, destroyed a historic train depot, a house and the hunting cabin.

Other charges against Harden are pending, Oxendine said.

Commissioner Oxendine’s Arson Unit assisted the GBI in the investigation.

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