



News Release

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Two Men Arrested for Arson and Burglary of Simmesport Convenience Store

Simmesport, LA: State Fire Marshal H. “Butch” Browning announced today the arrest of two persons charged with the burglary and arson that occurred at T and T Grocery located at 262 College Drive.

Investigators secured an arrest warrant for Herbert McDonald (dob. 4-1-71) charging him with simple burglary and simple arson. He was arrested by the US Marshal Service in Cleveland County Oklahoma and extradited back to Louisiana. He is being held in the Avoyelles Parish Jail on \$100,000.00 bond. Also arrested with a warrant was Donnell K. Sampson (dob. 11-15-77) he was charged with possession of stolen property and accessory after the fact to simple arson. He was also booked into the Avoyelles Parish Jail being held on a \$50,000.00 bond.

On October 11, 2011 Mr. McDonald is accused of forcing entry into the convenience store and stealing cigarettes and liquor. He then is suspected to have set the store on fire causing \$130,000.00 in damage. The fire totally destroyed the business. After the burglary and arson occurred, Mr. Sampson is accused of having possession of the liquor that was taken from the store. Other arrests in connection with this incident are expected.

Fire Marshal Browning stated, “The owner of this store does intend to rebuild however he has lost much of his investment. Arson crimes like this hurt the economy including State and local tax collections as well as employment opportunities.”

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