



News Release

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Webster Parish Fires Result in the Arrest of Volunteer Firefighter

Doyline, LA: State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning announced today, the arrest of a Webster Parish Volunteer Firefighter in connection with two building fires. State Fire Investigators charged Brandon Martin (dob. 2-6-80) with simple arson of a residence and aggravated arson for a fire set at an apartment complex. He is a volunteer member of the Webster Parish Fire Protection District #3; he joined the department two months ago.

The first fire occurred on March 22, 2011 at the North Park Apartments located at 100 N. Park Dr. in Doyline. The fire caused moderate damage to the office and laundry room. There were no injuries reported. State fire investigators determined that this fire was intentionally set and did cause danger to the persons living in the apartment complex.

On April 22, 2011 The State Fire Marshal's Office was requested to investigate a residential fire at 350 S. Morgan St. The home was completely destroyed by the fire and was unoccupied. Evidence on the scene revealed that the fire was also intentionally set.

A joint investigation was conducted along with the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office and Doyline Police Department. The three agencies developed witnesses that provided information which led to the arrest of Mr. Martin. A clear motive has not been established however Mr. Martin did respond to the fires he set in his official capacity as a volunteer firefighter. Investigators believe that he acted alone and no other arrests are expected. He is being held in the Webster Parish Jail with no bond issued.

State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning stated, "This person violated the public's trust and put lives in danger; we will not tolerate criminal acts by a person sworn to protect. This incident should not reflect negatively on the dedicated members of this fire district who work hard every day to protect their community. Finally, I thank Sheriff Gary Sexton and Police Chief Robert Hayden for their offices full resources in clearing these two arson fires."

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