



News Release

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Series of Fires in St. Tammany Parish leads to an Arrest

Abita Springs, LA- The State Fire Marshal's Office has arrested one person in connection with seven arson fires in St. Tammany Parish. This investigation began last December with a suspected arson fire set at the New Hope Baptist Church.

The Fire Marshal's Office discovered a pattern of suspicious fires occurring in the Abita Springs area and launched a special task force to investigate the crimes. The following fires occurred and were classified as arson (Intentionally set):

1. 12-20-11 New Hope Baptist Church, 22216 9th Street. Heavy damage.
2. 12-20-11 Large recycle bend fire, 22517 LA Hwy. 36
3. 12-28-11 (2) trash dumpster fires, 22516 LA Hwy. 36
4. 04-18-12 Vacant residential home, 22144 12th Street. Heavy damage
5. 05-03-12 (2) trash dumpster fires, 22516 LA Hwy. 36

Investigators developed evidence that led to the arrest of William T. Brouillette 50y/o of 22516 LA Highway 36, apartment A204, Abita Springs. Brouillette was charged with one count of simple arson. He was booked into the St. Tammany Parish Jail and is being held on bond. Investigators intend to charge Brouillette with the remaining six arson fires. Brouillette was previously convicted and served a prison term for arson.

Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning credited the team work of the Abita Springs Fire Department, Jefferson Parish Fire Prevention Bureau, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office and St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office for their wonderful work in securing this criminal arrest. Marshal Browning said, "We are very concerned that these fires were set endangering the public and damaging property. We believe the motive was a fascination with fire."

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