



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services

8181 Independence Blvd. • Baton Rouge, LA 70806

www.lasfm.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ashley Rodrigue
Public Affairs Director

DATE: 2/1/21

PHONE: 225-620-5115
ashley.rodrigue@la.gov

Man Arrested for Multiple Vehicle Fires in Slidell

ST. TAMMANY PARISH- Following an extensive joint investigation between the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFM) and St. Tammany Fire Protection District #1, a New Orleans East man has been arrested for burning and/or damaging almost a dozen vehicles across the Slidell area.

Michael Jackson, 62, was booked into the St. Tammany Parish Jail on January 31 on one count each of Aggravated Arson and Simple Arson. Additional charges are expected.

The first incident occurred in the early morning hours of December 23 at an apartment complex located in the 400 block of Voters Road. Two vehicles were set on fire and a third received damage due to exposure to one of the vehicles as it was burning. An investigation determined the fires were intentionally set.

The second incident occurred at the same location on January 4th, also in the early morning hours. This time, three vehicles were set ablaze while three others received exposure damage.

The third incident occurred in the early morning hours of January 30 in the 1300 block of Westlawn Drive in Slidell. One vehicle was set on fire while sitting in the driveway of an occupied home. An investigation determined this fire was also intentionally set.

During the investigation, deputies learned a common victim was an ex-girlfriend of Jackson's. Other victims included her new boyfriend as well as a female friend and her husband who had been helping the ex-girlfriend with replacement vehicles and a new place to stay as the incidents continued to occur.

With the assistance of special agents from the New Orleans field office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), SFM deputies and STPPD #1 were able to gather evidence confirming Jackson near the location of each fire days prior to each fire, as well as minutes prior to each fire. A warrant was then obtained for Jackson's arrest on January 30.

With the assistance of the Louisiana Attorney General's Office, Jackson was taken into custody on January 31 and booked in connection with the case.

"This is a dangerous individual that, thankfully, has been stopped," said State Fire Marshal Chief Butch Browning, "The investigative partnership established on this case was critical in achieving this outcome and this should send a clear message to anyone attempting to commit arsons in this state that the full resources of this office, and its partners, will always be utilized to hold you accountable."

“This investigation is a great example of resources working together promptly for a quick arrest and to bring justice to the victims,” said St. Tammany Fire Protection District #1 Chief Chris Kaufmann.

“ATF, working alongside the Louisiana State Fire Marshal’s Office and St. Tammany Fire District, was able to bring our expertise and resources to investigate these dangerous arsons,” said ATF New Orleans Special Agent in Charge Kurt Thielhorn. “The collaborative effort led to a successful investigation and the arrest of Mr. Jackson, and allows the residents of Slidell to live without fear of an arsonist in their midst.”

--END - END - END - END--

