



News Release

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gatrees.org

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BERRIEN COUNTY MAN INDICTED ON ARSON CHARGES

A Georgia Forestry Commission arson investigation has led to the indictment of a Nashville, Georgia man on felony arson charges. Brenton Thomas Boyd, 33, was indicted by the Berrien County Grand Jury May 15 on four felony counts and one misdemeanor count in connection with fires that burned more than 50 acres of forestland last month.

Boyd was arrested on April 9 and charged with lighting a fire in Berrien County that burned across two landowners' property, damaging 24.3 acres and 22.1 acres respectively. Two felony counts for arson in the third degree were lodged in connection with these charges. Boyd has also been indicted for a second wildfire which burned 6.9 acres, resulting in two additional felony counts. Each felony count is punishable by one to five years in prison and a fine up to \$10,000. Boyd was also indicted on a misdemeanor count for allegedly starting another fire which burned one tenth of an acre. Trial is expected to begin in October.

Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) arson investigators say a witness placed Boyd at the scene of one of the fires and shoe evidence implicated him in two other blazes. Investigators add that Boyd remains a suspect in other arson fires in the area.

Georgia is experiencing its worst wildfire season on record. As the agency charged with protecting Georgians and their property from wildfire, the GFC is urging all residents to exercise extreme caution when working with fire tools outdoors, such as lawn equipment and backyard grills. Any suspicious fire activity should be reported immediately to the Arson Hotline at 1-800-282-5804. Specific information about the Boyd investigation should be directed to GFC Arson Investigator Mike Leverette at 1-800-GA TREES.

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