News Release

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Convenience Store Owner Charged with Arson in St. Rose

Baton Rouge LA: State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning announced today, the arrest of a convenience store owner and another man in connection with two intentionally set fires. They occurred within a month and were set with the intent to defraud the stores insurance policy.

The St. Rose Volunteer Fire Department responded to separate fires at the Quick Fast Convenience Store located at 11734 Highway 48 in St. Rose Louisiana. The first fire was reported on November 27, 2010 and caused damage resulting from a fire being set outside the building. The second fire occurred on December 5, 2010 and caused significant damage to the inside of the building, causing a total loss to the contents within the store.

The State Fire Marshal's Office jointly worked with the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office and the Louisiana Department of Probation and Parole to investigate these fires. It was determined that probable cause existed to arrest the owner, Nam Pham (dob. 1-12-84). He was charged with 1 count of criminal conspiracy and 2 counts of arson with the intent to defraud. Also arrested was Demorial Hicks (dob. 9-1-80), he was charged with 1 count of criminal conspiracy to commit arson with the intent to defraud. Both were booked into the St. Charles Parish Jail.

The Quick Fast Store was insured with a 1 million dollar policy issued by State Farm and Casualty Company that Mr. Pham had purchased.

State Fire Marshal Browning stated, "This fire had the potential to pay a large amount of money to a fraudulent claim. When people defraud insurance companies we all pay and it is not right. I commend the agencies for working together to protect the consumers and expose this crime."

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