



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services

8181 Independence Blvd. • Baton Rouge, LA 70806

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT:** Ashley Rodrigue  
Public Affairs Director

**DATE:** 12/9/24

**PHONE:** 225-620-5115  
[ashley.rodrigue@la.gov](mailto:ashley.rodrigue@la.gov)

## Tallulah Man Arrested for Series of Fires

**MADISON PARISH-** The State Fire Marshal's Office (SFM) has arrested a Tallulah man for several vacant house fires dating back to April 2023.

Tory'shawn Banks, 21, was booked into the Madison Parish Jail on November 27 on 4 counts of Simple Arson, 1 count of Aggravated Arson, 5 counts of Criminal Trespass and 5 counts of Criminal Damage to Property.

On November 12, the Tallulah Fire Department responded to an abandoned house fire located in the 500 block of W. Scott Street in Tallulah. SFM investigators, who had been requested to look into the cause of the fire, determined it was intentionally set.

During the investigation, Banks became a suspect in this case. In addition, deputies confirmed there had been four other fires at vacant homes investigated in neighborhoods where Banks lived with family since spring of 2023:

- 4/6/23 500 block of Harding Street
- 8/6/23 600 block of Adams Street
- 9/5/24 300 block of Morgan Street
- 10/23/24 300 block of Morgan Street

In one of these cases, smoke from the fire filled the neighboring home so much that smoke alarms sounded and affected an elderly resident inside.

After reviewing all of the case details, deputies believed they were all connected and that Banks was the suspect in all of them. An arrest warrant was obtained and he was taken into custody on Nov. 27. In an interview with investigators, Banks admitted his role in all of the fires.

State Fire Marshal Chief Bryan J Adams wants to commend the agency's Fire Investigations Unit for their work on this case and thank the Madison Parish Sheriff's Office and the Tallulah Fire Department for their partnership in getting answers and an arrest. Chief Adams also thanks the community members who offered helpful information and direction throughout this investigation.

As a reminder, if you have information about any fire-related crime, you can share that information with the SFM by calling our Arson Hotline at 1-844-954-1221 or by submitting an online tip form. All information can be shared anonymously.

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