

NEWS RELEASE

**The Ohio
Department of Commerce**

**Ted Strickland, Governor
Kimberly A. Zurz, Director**

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OHIO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PICKAWAY COUNTY RESIDENT INDICTED ON ARSON CHARGES
FOR INVOLVEMENT IN CIRCLEVILLE FIRE

An ongoing investigation by the Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Circleville Fire and Police Departments and the Pickaway County Prosecutor has led to the indictment of a Pickaway County resident for aggravated arson today.

Nathan M. Reed, 18, was indicted for aggravated arson, a felony of the first degree (F1). Reed was also indicted for disrupting public services (F4), vandalism (F3), breaking and entering (F5), safecracking (F4), theft (F5), possession of criminal tools (F5), attempted aggravated burglary (F2) and assault, a misdemeanor of the first degree (M1).

The investigation also led to indictments for Pickaway County residents Whitney J. Haddox, 18, and Breanna M. Shields, 18. Haddox and Shields were indicted for tampering with evidence (F3), receiving stolen property (F5) and obstructing justice (F5).

The charges stem from the September 22, 2008 fire at Mason's Furniture Store on North Court Street in Circleville. Investigators announced on September 25, 2008 that the fire was intentionally set, or arson. The determination was made based on interviews, examination of the fire scene and laboratory analysis of collected evidence.

"The cooperation of all the agencies involved in this case was very important," said State Fire Marshal Michael P. Bell. "Investigators worked together to quickly determine the cause of this fire and find those responsible."

"Thanks to the ATF, SFM and fire department's assistance in the investigation, we were able to clear up additional cases unrelated to the fire investigation," said Circleville Police Chief Harold Gray. "We look forward to working with the prosecutor and other agencies to see this case through to completion."

"Arson is a crime that endangers the community and firefighters. I commend the investigators and the Pickaway County Prosecutor's office for their dedication to this investigation," said Chris Sadowski, Special Agent in Charge, ATF Columbus Field Division.

"The State is pleased to announce that the efforts of the police and fire departments, ATF and SFM resulted in the indictments against the adults involved in the Mason's fire incident," said Prosecutor Judy Wolford.

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