



Contact:
Special Agent Kim Riddell
ATF PIO
(330) 360-2063
Rachel Meyer, IDHS PIO
(317) 234-6713

For Immediate Release
Sept. 28, 2009

FIRE AT LITTLE NASHVILLE OPRY WAS INTENTIONALLY SET

NASHVILLE, Ind. — The National Response Team (NRT) from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), ATF Columbus Field Division, Indiana Department of Homeland Security's State Fire Marshal, Brown County Sheriff's Office and Brown County Volunteer Fire Department investigators completed the on-scene investigation into the cause of the Sep. 19th blaze at the Little Nashville Opry located in Nashville.

Christopher P. Sadowski, Special Agent in Charge, ATF Columbus Field Division; Jim Greeson, Indiana Fire Marshal; Robert Stogsdill, Brown County Sheriff; Dallas A. Kelp, Chief, Brown County Volunteer Fire Department announced that the blaze was ruled arson. Specific information regarding the fire and investigation will not be released as the investigation into the criminal act is continuing.

The team of investigators have taken photographs, recovered potential evidence from the scene for laboratory analysis and conducted over 40 interviews throughout the community. The ATF National Response Team will depart Nashville today.

"The ATF National Laboratory will analyze the fire debris and evidence to assist in determining the cause of the fire. An ATF Special Agent Certified Fire Investigator based in Indianapolis, along with Indianapolis ATF agents, will continue to work together with local investigators to investigate this crime," said Sadowski.

"Intentionally set fires are a serious crime that can put innocent citizens and rescue personnel at great risk," said Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. "I commend the agencies involved who have worked this case, and urge citizens to report any suspicions or information regarding the Little Nashville Opry Fire so we can hold criminals accountable for their violent and costly actions."

Anyone with information about the fire should call the Sheriff's Office Tip Line 812-988-6620. All calls will be kept confidential.

ATF's NRT, comprising ATF personnel from across the country, responded to the scene to work alongside state and local investigators. The NRT's specialized resources include a canine team, certified fire investigators, forensic chemist, electrical and fire protection engineers, and additional specialists. This NRT activation was the 23rd this fiscal year and 681nd since the 1978 inception of the NRT program.

###