



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Louisville Field Division

Contact: PIO Craig W. Roegner
Cell: (502) 773-2614
Office: (502) 753-3556

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FIRE IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN FRANKFORT, KY., ARSON

FRANKFORT, Ky.— Special Agent in Charge Paul J. Vido of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Chief Walter Wilhoite of the Frankfort Police Department (FPD), Chief Wallace W. Possich of the Frankfort Fire Department (FFD), and Fire Marshal Rodney Raby of the Kentucky State Fire Marshal's Office (KYFM) jointly announced today that the on-scene origin and cause investigation into the March 4 fire that occurred at 331 St. Clair St., in the historic downtown area of Frankfort, Ky., was arson.

A team of investigators from FPD, FFD, KYFM and ATF completed the on-scene investigation early this morning, determining the fire was incendiary in nature and intentionally set. A thorough examination of the scene eliminated the electrical, natural gas, and heating systems in the structure as potential causes of the fire. All evidence recovered at the scene will be sent to the ATF National Laboratory for examination.

Vido said, "The work at the fire scene is finished, however our investigation is not over. This joint investigative team is aggressively following up on all leads. I am confident this team will find the responsible individual or individuals."

After conferring with investigators, Raby and Possich agreed that they were "gratified that there was no loss of life and that a working smoke detector was in the building."

In addition, Wilhoite said, "Federal, state, and local investigators are combining their efforts, expertise, and resources in this ongoing investigation. We are thankful for everyone's assistance."

Based on the seriousness of the incident and potential loss of life, investigators are requesting anyone with information about the St. Clair Street fire should call the Frankfort Police Department at (502) 875-8523.

More information on ATF and its programs is a www.atf.gov.

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