



# Department of Justice

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Central District of Illinois

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**MOLINE MAN ARRESTED, CHARGED**  
**WITH MALICIOUS ARSON RESULTING IN THREE DEATHS**

ROCK ISLAND, IL – A Moline, Illinois man made his initial appearance in federal court late this afternoon, March 23, 2007, following his arrest today. William Henry VanDeWoestyne, age 40, of 4341 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Moline, was charged in a criminal complaint with malicious arson resulting in injuries and three deaths. U.S. Magistrate Judge Thomas J. Shields ordered VanDeWoestyne be detained in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service pending a hearing scheduled for noon on March 28, 2007, at federal court in Rock Island, Illinois.

The affidavit filed in support of the complaint alleges that VanDeWoestyne caused a natural gas explosion and fire on March 4, 2007, at 4341 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Moline, Illinois, which resulted in the deaths of three residents of the 12-unit condominium.

If convicted, the offense, malicious arson resulting in death, is punishable by a statutory minimum penalty of seven years to life in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

The charge is the result of an investigation by the Moline Police Department; Moline Fire Department; East Moline Fire Department; Rock Island County State's Attorney's Office; the Illinois State Fire Marshals Office; and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey B. Lang.

Members of the public are reminded that a complaint is merely an accusation; each defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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