



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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French Quarter Arson Suspect Identified, Arrested

ORLEANS PARISH- Thanks to the assistance of local media and the public, the Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal has identified and arrested a Harvey man suspected in an arson case in the French Quarter over the weekend.

Nicholas Layburn (DOB 1/7/89) was arrested Wednesday, August 1, while creating a minor disturbance at a business in the 300 block of Chartres Street. He was booked into the Orleans Parish prison on one count of Aggravated Arson. New Orleans Police also booked Layburn on one count of criminal damage after he broke a camera in the police unit transporting him to the jail.

Through tips from the public, Layburn was identified as the subject seen on surveillance video on the afternoon of Friday, July 27, in the area of Governor Nicholls and Dauphine Street in New Orleans.

In the video, the subject, now known as Layburn, is seen pouring a liquid substance out of a red fuel can onto a stack of bricks outside of a residential building in the 900 block of Governor Nicholls. Layburn is then seen crossing the street before returning to the stack of bricks. A bright flash of flames then appears in the video as Layburn stands and watches.

Following Layburn's arrest, several French Quarter business members thanked officers and stated that Layburn had been a continual nuisance in the area for the past few weeks.

The NOPD is currently reviewing that additional information about unrelated incidents possibly involving Layburn that could lead to additional charges.

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