



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington State Man Arrested for Sulphur Hotel Fire

CALCASIEU PARISH- The State Fire Marshal's Office has arrested a transient from Washington State for allegedly starting a fire that led to a vacant Sulphur hotel burning down.

Nathan Hal Thomasini, 27, was booked into the Calcasieu Parish Jail on Sunday, Oct. 23, on one count each of Simple Arson, Simple Burglary and Injury by Arson. He faces additional charges from another law enforcement agency.

In the early morning hours of Sunday, Oct. 23, the Sulphur Fire Department responded to a report of a hotel fire located in the 300 block of South Cities Service Highway. The building was the Quality Inn & Suites hotel which had been vacant and without utility connections or life safety systems like fire sprinklers since the 2020 hurricanes that hit southwest Louisiana. Two firefighters received minor injuries during the response.

During the investigation, deputies learned that Thomasini, who was known to trespass on the property, was taken into custody by Sulphur Police early in the investigation. Further investigative efforts including collecting witness statements and surveillance video of the area confirmed Thomasini as being in the immediate area of the hotel at the time the fire started. Deputies also confirmed he was the sole occupant of the structure at the time of the fire. Thomasini was then booked on several arrest warrants in connection with the case.

The SFM is grateful for the many partnerships that contributed to this quick case closure including Sulphur Fire Department, Sulphur Police Department, City of Sulphur Public Works, Calcasieu OEP, Lafayette Fire Department, Alexandria Fire Department and Louisiana Search and Rescue (SAR) K-9 team.

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