



For Immediate Release
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Arrest Made in Connection to Scioto County Arson

The Division of State Fire Marshal's Fire and Explosion Investigation Bureau (FEIB) recently arrested a West Portsmouth man in connection to an arson fire that occurred late last month.

Ernie L. Harr, 45, of West Portsmouth, was arrested March 2 and charged with one count of arson, a fourth-degree felony, for allegedly causing a fire in the early morning hours of Feb. 28. Harr is also believed to be the suspect in seven other related fires that took place between 3-5 a.m. the same day. He is currently incarcerated in the Scioto County Jail.

The State Fire Marshal's office, in conjunction with the Portsmouth Fire Department, the Portsmouth Police Department and the Scioto County Sheriff's Office, is currently investigating the remaining seven fires and their possible connection to Harr. Upon conclusion of the investigation, these cases will be presented to the office of Scioto County Prosecutor Shane Tieman.

"The work on this case exemplifies the collaboration of multiple agencies working together to keep our communities safer," said FEIB Chief Josh Hobbs. "This was an investigative effort that required a significant amount of time on behalf of all those involved, and I couldn't be prouder of the work that was done."

Anyone with information is encouraged to call the State Fire Marshal's tip line at **800-589-2728** or the Portsmouth Fire Department at **740-354-1200**. All callers may remain anonymous.

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