



Sheriff Jimmy Thornton
Sampson Co. Sheriff's Office
112 Fontana Street
Clinton, NC 28328
(910) 592-4141

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: February 3, 2010

TOPIC: Howard Road Arsonist Taken Into Custody

FOR RELEASE: Immediate

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Sampson Co. Sheriff's Office - Capt. Eric Pope @ (910) 592-4141

Clinton, NC – The Sampson County Sheriff's Office has arrested Durwood Bradley Horne, age 42, of 450 Howard Road, Autryville, NC. Horne was charged with three counts of First Degree Arson and three counts of Burning Personal Property. Horne was placed in the Sampson County Detention Center under a \$350,000.00 bond.

The arrest is the result of an on-going investigation into a series of arson fires that date back to 2006. The Sampson County Sheriff's Office with the assistance of the Sampson County Fire Marshal's Office, the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation, and the U.S. Bureau of Tobacco, Alcohol and Firearms has been investigating a series of fires that have occurred on Howard Road during this time period. Horne was identified as a suspect as far back as 2007 however insufficient evidence existed to charge him at the time.

Horne has been charged in connection with the following arson cases:

1. 09/29/07 – 544 Howard Road – 1st Degree Arson for burning an occupied mobile home.
2. 09/29/07 – 467 Howard Road – 1st Degree Arson for burning an occupied mobile home.
3. 01/20/10 – 316 Howard Road – Burning Personal Property for burning an automobile.
4. 01/24/10 – 398 Howard Road – 1st Degree Arson and 2 Counts of Burning Personal Property for burning an occupied house and two automobiles.

Sheriff Jimmy Thornton and investigators met with District Attorney Dewey Hudson, to review new information obtained during the investigation of the fires in 2010. In reviewing the new evidence in addition to the information identified in 2007 District

Attorney Hudson felt enough probable cause existed to charge Horne. District Attorney Hudson stated, "Arson fires are traditionally one of the hardest crimes to prove, because evidence is destroyed during the fire."

Horne is considered a suspect in additional fires that are still under investigation. Anyone with information on Durwood Horne or any suspicious fires in the Howard Road area is encouraged to contact the Sampson County Sheriff's Office.



Durwood Bradley Horne