



Office of the District Attorney  
**P. David Soares**  
6 Lodge Street  
Albany, New York 12207  
(518) 487-5460  
(518) 487-5093 FAX

**CONTACT:** CECILIA WALSH (518) 275-4710  
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## Defendant Pleads Guilty to Setting Fire to Multiple Buildings in Knox

*Defendant Prevented Firefighters from Entering Property and Threatened to  
Shoot Them with a Handgun*



**ALBANY, NY-** District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that **KENNETH FORTUIN**, 49, of Knox, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Arson in the Third Degree, a Class C Felony, and (1) Count of Obstructing Firefighting Operations, a Class A Misdemeanor, before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court this morning.

On February 5, 2014, the defendant intentionally burned down his residence and several outbuildings located on his property on Saddlemire Road in the Town of Knox. When members of the Knox Fire Department responded to the scene, they discovered that several large trees were cut down and blocked the roadway leading to the defendant's property, which prevented firefighters from performing their duties.

When firefighters made contact with the defendant, he said he possessed a loaded handgun and threatened to shoot them if they proceeded any further onto his property to extinguish the fires.

FORTUIN faces 2 1/3 to 7 years in State Prison when sentenced on June 19, 2014 and remains in custody at the Albany County Correctional Facility in lieu of \$150,000 bail to await sentencing. Additionally, the defendant was ordered by the Court to pay restitution in the amount of \$149,624.54 to cover the cost of the damage from the multiple structural fires.

Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Cheryl Fowler is handling the prosecution of this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh (518) 275-4710.

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