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Defendant Sentenced for 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, was sentenced to 2 1/3 to 7 years in State Prison for Arson before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court this morning. 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. FORTUIN was also sentenced to a conditional discharge for Obstructing Firefighting Operations.

On April 24, 2014, FORTUIN 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.

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.

Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Cheryl Fowler prosecuted this case.

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

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