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ATF, FIRE MARSHAL OFFER \$7,500 REWARD IN CHURCH FIRE INVESTIGATION

BRANSON, Mo. – The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Missouri State Fire Marshal's Office announced today they are jointly offering a reward of up to \$7,500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the Jan. 6 fire that destroyed the Mt. Branson Church of God.

The follow-up investigation and evidence subsequently gathered at the scene revealed the fire was intentionally set. The structure, located at 199 Carter Road, was valued at \$250,000 and has been determined to be a total loss.

The public is asked to call the Missouri State Fire Marshal's Hotline at **1-800-39-ARSON**, ATF's toll free hotline, **1-888-ATF-FIRE** (888-283-3473) or Taney County Sheriff's Department at **417-334-3440** with any information that may help identify those responsible for the arson fire. Both hotlines are answered 24 hours a day and all calls remain confidential.

ATF is the federal agency with jurisdiction for investigating major fires and crimes of arson. More information on ATF and its programs is at <u>www.atf.gov</u>.

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