



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Charlotte Field Division

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NCSBI, SPRUCE PINES POLICE AND ATF MAKE ARREST IN FIRES *ATF's National Response Team Responded to Town Center*

SPRUCE PINE, N.C. – Today, David Kenneth McCall, age 44, of Spruce Pine, was arrested and charged with setting the fires in Spruce Pine. McCall has been charged with one Class G felony count of Arson in the Second Degree in violation of North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) 14-58, four Class F felony counts of Burning a Commercial Building in violation of NCGS 14-62 and four Class H felony counts of Breaking and Entering in violation of NCGS 14-54. If convicted, McCall faces a maximum sentence of 23 years confinement on all of the charges.

During the early morning hours on Aug. 4, a fire was reported at the Keen building, which housed various business to include a Hispanic Church (Inlesia Hispana San Juan 3:16) located at 380 Oak Avenue in Spruce Pine. The building and church was completely destroyed by fire.

On the evening of Aug. 4, four additional fires were reported within a three block area. Businesses that were damaged or destroyed on Locust Street include the Cheepskates Music and Thrift Store and apartments, the Wylie Building, Lady Blues Boutique, DTs Blue Ridge Java, Tree House Mountain Realty and Spruce Pine Railroad Depot. The Mayland Armature Company on Oak Avenue was damaged by fire on this day also. The total loss of the structures, contents and value to the community by these fires is estimated at more than \$1 million.

After a thorough investigation of the fires they were all determined to be incendiary. An incendiary fire is defined as one that is deliberately ignited under circumstances in which the person knows that the fire should not be ignited.

“We will not let our communities suffer the pain of an arsonist without a proper and just response, and what we have in Spruce Pine is an example of our response. We expect justice to follow. The good citizens of Spruce Pine can once again sleep peacefully at night,” said Zebedee T. Graham, ATF special agent in charge of the Charlotte Field Division.

Carl Vasilko, special agent in charge of the ATF National Response Team said, “Arson is a senseless crime that has struck at the heart of this community and we take it with the utmost seriousness. We will deploy all of our expertise and resources whenever someone decides to use fire as a tool to destroy lives and property.”

“The citizens of Spruce Pine have been through a trying time. Even through this tragedy and difficult time, the level of cooperation and understanding for the process was outstanding, and I want to personally thank them all,” stated Chief Hollifield. “The level of law enforcement cooperation and professionalism I observed was unprecedented in my 36 years as a police professional.”

In addition to ATF, agencies participating in the investigation are the District Attorney’s Office for the 24th Judicial District of North Carolina, North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, Spruce Pine Police Department, the Spruce Pine Fire Department, North Carolina Department of Corrections Probation and Parole, Mitchell County Emergency Management Department and the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

ATF is the federal agency with jurisdiction for investigating arson and fire. More information on ATF and its programs is at www.atf.gov.

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