



## News Release



At The Frontline Against Violent Crime

Kansas City Field Division

**Contacts:**

SA Trista Frederick, PIO, ATF  
(816) 559-0724

For Immediate Release

Feb. 17, 2012

[www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov)

Barry Nuss, Fire Marshal, PIO  
Lincoln County Fire Protection District  
(636) 528-8567 ext. 6403

Mike O'Connell, Communications Director  
Missouri Division of Fire Safety  
(573) 751-4819

### **ARREST IN MULTIPLE ELSBERRY ARSONS**

ELSBERRY, Mo. — The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Kansas City Field Division, the Missouri Division of Fire Safety's Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Lincoln County Arson Task Force announced today that Roy William Gunn, age 33, of Elsberry, Mo., was arrested in connection with multiple arson fires.

Beginning in July 2011, ATF, the Missouri State Fire Marshal's Office and the Lincoln County Arson Task Force have been investigating a series of fires in the Elsberry, Mo. The fires occurred primarily in residential and commercial structures, causing a total of approximately \$500,000 in damage. Gunn was arrested yesterday in Elsberry, Mo. and is currently being held on state charges including arson, burglary and knowingly burning. Gunn was arrested in relation to the below incidents:

- On July 19, 2011, a fire occurred at a vacant residential structure located at 309 S. Third St. in Elsberry, Mo.
- On July 24, 2011, a fire occurred at a vacant residential structure located at 303 S. Fourth Street in Elsberry, Mo.
- On Aug. 30, 2011, a fire occurred at a vacant residence located at 306 S. Third St. in Elsberry, Mo.
- On Aug. 31, 2011, a fire occurred at a vacant commercial structure located at 990 Highway B in Elsberry, Mo. The business at the structure was formerly known as Stu's Countryside Quick Shop.
- On Sept. 10, 2011, a fire occurred at an occupied commercial structure located at 301 S. Main St. in Elsberry, Mo.
- On Oct. 30, 2011, a natural cover fire was discovered at property located 2803 N. Highway 79, south of Elsberry, Mo.
- On Feb. 14, 2012, a fire occurred at a vacant residential structure located at 301 S. Third St. in Elsberry, Mo.

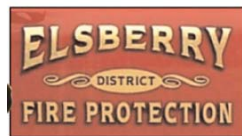
“Arson is a serious and potentially deadly crime that impacts an entire community”, said ATF Special Agent in Charge Michael P. Gleysteen. “Cooperation is the cornerstone to success in any investigation and ATF is a proud partner in this case.”

“After seven long months and thousands of man hours, our residents and business owners can sleep a little better tonight knowing we were successful in removing this dangerous threat from our community. Throughout the investigation, our community had the unconditional support of many state, federal and local agencies which ultimately led to the arrest of the responsible person”, said Elsberry Fire Chief Kevin Hailey. “On behalf of Elsberry Fire Protection District and our community, I thank the following agencies for their outstanding support: Missouri Division of Fire Safety, ATF, Lincoln County Arson Task Force, Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office, Troy Police Department, Elsberry Police Department, Lincoln County Fire Protection District #1, Northwest Fire Protection District, Winfield-Foley Fire Protection District, Wright City Fire Protection District, Eolia Fire Protection District and Old Monroe Fire Protection District.”

The case was investigated by ATF, the Missouri State Fire Marshal's Office and the Lincoln County Arson Task Force. The Lincoln County Arson Task Force consists of the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office, the Troy Police Department, the Elsberry Police Department, the Lincoln County Fire Protection District #1, the Northwest Fire Protection District, the Winfield-Foley Fire Protection District, the Wright City Fire Protection District, the Eolia Fire Protection District and the Old Monroe Fire Protection District.

ATF is the federal agency with jurisdiction for investigating fires and crimes of arson. For more information about ATF, go to [www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov). Follow @ATFHQ on Twitter.

*As is always the case, these charges are merely accusations and do not constitute proof of guilt. Every defendant is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty.*



###