TEENAGERS ARRESTED FOR HARALSON COUNTY ARSON FIRES

Two teenagers were arrested Thursday, April 18, on charges of setting two arson fires that burned two acres of forest land in Haralson County.

“The individuals are under age 18,” said Brian Clavier, GFC’s Chief of Law Enforcement, explaining why the arsonists’ names will not be released. “With the assistance of the Haralson County Fire Department, Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit District Attorney’s Office, the Haralson-Paulding Drug Task Force, and the Haralson County Sheriff’s Office, charges have been filed and the cases will be turned over to the Haralson County District Attorney’s Office for prosecution.”

The two fires were both set on the evening of April 6 on Riddlespurgeon Road and Addison Road in northern Haralson County. Though no one was injured in these two particular fires and no structures were damaged, GFC officials are still gathering information on numerous other arson fires in the area.

Arson is the leading cause of wildfires in Haralson County. In 2012, 61 fires which burned just over 265 acres of forest lands were intentionally set within the county. Statewide, arson is the third leading cause of wildfires and accounted for just under 6,000 acres burned in 2012.

The Georgia Forestry Commission’s highly-trained arson specialists analyze on-site evidence resulting from suspicious fires throughout the state and actively build cases that are used to prosecute those responsible for arson fires. The penalty for woods arson, a felony in Georgia, is up to 20 years in prison and a $50,000 fine.

For more information about Georgia’s forest resources and the services of the Georgia Forestry Commission, visit GaTrees.org.

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