



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ODESSA MAN ORDERED TO REPORT TO PRISON IN OCTOBER
FOR OILFIELD FIRES**

Acting United States Attorney John E. Murphy announced that Steven Wayne Jones, 28, of Odessa, was sentenced to 46 months imprisonment in Midland Federal Court for six counts of *Destruction of an Energy Facility*. Jones had pled guilty on May 21, 2009, and District Judge Robert Junell ordered Jones to report to prison on October 14, 2009.

In documents filed with the court during his plea in May, Jones admitted to setting fire to six crude oil production storage facilities in Ector and Crane counties which were owned or serviced by Plains Marketing Company in the early morning hours of May 17, 2008. Once a truck driver for Plains, Jones had been fired by the company the day before the fires were set.

According to the court documents, Jones set the fires by opening various valves in order to release crude oil onto the ground, and then set fire to the crude. Some of the facilities were destroyed entirely and had to be replaced.

In addition to the prison sentence, Judge Junell ordered Jones to pay a total of more than \$1.8 million in restitution to multiple victims for the property damage.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Oilfield Theft Task Force, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeff Parras.

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