



U.S. Department of Justice

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FORMER LEAF RIVER VOLUNTEER FIREMAN INDICTED ON FEDERAL ARSON CHARGE

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives; PAUL A. LOGLI, Winnebago County State's Attorney; RICHARD A. MEYERS, Chief of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department; DAVID B. FOREMAN, Illinois State Fire Marshal; TODD STOCKBURGER, Chief of the Winnebago Police Department; and ROB MARTIN, Chief of the Winnebago Fire Department, today made the following announcement:

A federal grand jury in Rockford today indicted **MATHEW M. BOOK**, 34 (DOB: 4/17/71), formerly of 982 Montague Road, Winnebago, Illinois, for maliciously starting a fire on May 10, 2006, which destroyed a building located at 2758 Alworth Road, Winnebago, Illinois, which was used in interstate commerce.

Book is being held in state custody and is scheduled to appear before United States Magistrate Mahoney at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, July 17, 2006 for his initial appearance. If convicted of the charge, Book faces a minimum sentence of 5 years and a maximum potential sentence of up to 20 years in prison without parole, and a fine of up to \$250,000. If convicted, the actual sentence will be determined by a United States District Court Judge, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The case was investigated by the Rockford office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, with the assistance of the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office, the Winnebago Police Department, and the Winnebago Fire Department. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph C. Pedersen.

Members of the public are reminded that a criminal indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which time the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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