



Contact

Mark Hanna
(512) 326-7616

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Arson Hotline Nabs Trio in Mills County Fire

A former resident of Big Spring and a couple from Mills County decided to torch a home in Mullin, Texas rather than remodel it. Their illegal plans were told to others who contacted the state Arson Hotline and the call resulted in the three arrested on charges of arson.

The three reportedly set fire to the structure in the attic after piling up boxes and mattresses onto a couch in the home's living room. The fire destroyed the house despite efforts by Mullin volunteer firefighters.

Mills County Sheriff's officers arrested the three the next day and they were released on \$75,000 bond. Charged with arson were Gary Wayne Spivey, Serena Spivey and homeowner Crystal Nell Horton. The home was insured by the Hochheim Prairie Insurance Company for \$75,000. Hochheim Prairie officials are working with the State Fire Marshal's Office in the investigation.

The state Arson Hotline is funded by ATAC, A Texas Advisory Committee on Arson. Informants are rewarded for their calls and subsequent assistance in helping make arrests. ATAC has awarded the caller \$675 for reporting the suspects in the Mullin fire.

Anonymous callers are urged to contact the Arson Hotline to report arson fires. Callers can contact the hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The state Arson Hotline phone number is **1-877- 4 FIRE 45**.

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