



**PATRICK "PAT" LABAT**  
FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF

## **FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Inmate Resident Starts Fire at the Rice Street Jail**

**ATLANTA, GA** – Preliminary information reveals that a single inmate resident out for free time started a fire in a bottom tier shower of a zone on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor in the north tower at approximately 5:15 p.m. He gathered plastic trash bags and a plastic bag with Styrofoam food trays, placed them in the shower and set them on fire, causing thick smoke and flames.

Atlanta Fire Rescue Department (AFRD) firefighters responded and quickly located and extinguished the fire. AFRD investigators also responded and are conducting an active investigation.

There were 16 inmate residents located in the zone where the fire occurred. All inmate residents on that floor, a total of 118, were moved to the south tower.

Five inmate residents, including the one accused of starting the fire, and four staff members were taken to the hospital with injuries related to smoke inhalation.

Sheriff Labat wants to thank the FCSO team on duty at the jail at the time of the incident, those who responded, and AFRD for their quick response and coordination to ensure no lives were lost.

**ABOUT THE FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE:** The mission of the Fulton County Sheriff's Office is Service; through laser-focused efforts to protect the citizens of Fulton County with coordinated law enforcement operations, special strategic teams, and community outreach methods. The Sheriff's Office is constitutionally responsible for the security of all courtrooms, executing arrest warrants, and serving civil papers. In addition, the Sheriff's Office is responsible for the administration and operation of the Fulton County Jail.

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