



# DIFS *ource*

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIVE AND FORENSIC SERVICES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3 MARCH 2018

[Newsletter Archive](#)

## Welcome to the DIFSource

It is with great pleasure that CFO Jimmy Patronis' Division of Investigative and Forensic Service can bring you the DIFSource. We are privileged to share the latest news, announcements and developments of our Division within the great State of Florida regarding acts of fraud, arson and the misuse of state funds. We are proud of our Divisions' efforts in safeguarding Florida business and resident's hard-earned assets. This newsletter serves to acknowledge the work that is done by our staff and to inform the public of our ongoing activities across the state.

## 2017 State Law Enforcement Chiefs' Association DIFS Award Recipients and Nominees

The Division of Investigative and Forensic Services would like to recognize and congratulate the following award recipients and nominees from the 2017 State Law Enforcement Chiefs' Association luncheon that was held March 29th.

### Congratulations to Lieutenant Paul Paterson on Receiving the Leadership Award

As Lieutenant of the Daytona Beach Field Office he has rapidly grown as a leader, mentor, and manager. He has served as a go to supervisor in the region and has led many complex investigations to include a Sanford serial arsonist, as well as multiple million-dollar fire losses. They say a leader should lead by example and create a following. That could not be any truer in Lieutenant Paterson's Office. Because of Lt. Paterson's leadership, his office has an above average arrest percentage; and most importantly a highly motivated and engaged work force.

### NEWS OF INTEREST

[Announcements](#)

[Press Releases](#)

[Arrests](#)

[Publications](#)

### REPORT CRIME NOW

[Insurance Fraud](#)

[Suspected Arson](#)

### OTHER LINKS OF INTEREST

[DIFS Home Page](#)

[Department of Financial Services](#)

[State Fire Marshal](#)

[Workers' Compensation](#)

[Insurance Agent and Agency Services](#)



### **Congratulations to Lieutenant Stacy McIntyre on Receiving the Lifesaving Award**

On September 26, 2017, while assisting with operations in the Keys following Hurricane Irma, Lieutenant McIntyre noticed a generator on the front porch of a residence with the exhaust blowing into the structure. He contacted the occupant, and observed that she exhibited the beginning symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning. Lieutenant McIntyre removed her from the residence and utilized his Carbon Monoxide (CO) detector to determine the CO was at a lethal level inside the residence. The Florida Wildlife Commission transported her to a nearby medical camp where she was monitored and released.

Due to Lieutenant McIntyre's attention to detail and dedication to the Citizens of Florida's health and well-being, he was able to notice a life-threatening situation and act to save her life.

### **Congratulations to Detective Jeff Batz for His Nomination of Investigator of the Year, 2017**

Detective Batz is a hardworking, efficient, and conscientious law enforcement detective. In addition to his duties as a detective, he also serves as an evidence custodian and the Accelerant Detection Canine Handler for the South-Central Region of the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations. He covers 13 counties and has responded to 168 canine assists since the beginning of 2017. Detective Batz has also been the primary case agent in 24 additional cases obtaining a 40% Arson clearance rate. This is well above the national average of approximately 20%.

It is Detective Batz's attitude toward the profession that lead to his nomination for this award. Detective Batz shows an unending willingness

DIFS Organizational Chart

STAY CONNECTED



to respond when needed, and working tirelessly to serve his agency, peers, and citizens of the State of Florida.

### **Congratulations to Detective Mike Perkins for His Nomination of the Outstanding Trainer Award**

In 2016 Detective Perkins made a recommendation to the Division that sworn personnel should be issued an individual first aid kit (IF AK) to treat members if they are experiencing a major blood loss and/ or a trauma injury. Detective Perkins created an IF AK containing nine (9) items to include, Quik Clot, HyFin occlusive chest seal, and a tourniquet. The IFAKs created by Detective Perkins cost \$87.00 each, compared to ready-made kits that can cost well over \$100.00 dollars each, saving an estimated \$2,000.00 tax payer dollars.

Detective Perkins' recommendation to supply sworn personnel with life-saving tools is an example of his commitment to our overall process to ensure that our personnel have the best possible training and equipment to perform the duties of our Division.

### **Congratulations to Administrative Assistant Sondra Mutchler for Her Nomination of the Distinguished Civilian Support Member of the Year**

During the 2017 calendar year, Mrs. Mutchler has been an integral part of the daily operations of many different divisions and bureaus such as the Division of State Fire Marshal, Bureaus of Fire Prevention and Fire Standards and Training, the Division of Worker's Compensation, Bureau of Compliance, as well as the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services, Bureaus of Fire and Arson Investigations and Fraud Investigations. Mrs. Mutchler has a can-do spirit and never backs away from a challenge. Mrs. Mutchler assists the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services and the Division of State Fire Marshal in hosting the Florida Advisory Committee on Arson Prevention seminar annually at the Florida State Fire College, which brings together members of the public and private sector from across the State of Florida, while maintaining her daily assigned duties.

Mrs. Mutchler is also requested by other bureaus within the department to help resolve issues such as the evaluation and creation of systems processes that make the agency more effective and efficient in its delivery of services. Mrs. Mutchler not just evaluates, but creates countless forms that are used throughout the agency. During the past year, Mrs. Mutchler completed her duties with such competence, motivation, and enthusiasm that she was tasked with assisting other field offices across the state and

their administrative staff review, revise and update their records and records retention functions. Mrs. Mutchler inspected, sorted and appropriately destroyed thousands of case files and other administrative documents to help bring those offices within compliance with records retention and management.

---

## Announcements



**DIFS Attends Treasure Coast Substance Awareness Coalition's Family Fun Day** on Saturday, February 03, 2018. Approximately 75 members of the local community came out to attend the event which included vendors, food trucks and community outreach.

**DIFS would like to Congratulate Detective Jeff Batz** for being selected as the FACAP Investigator of the Year due to his actions as a hardworking, efficient, and conscientious law enforcement detective. The full announcement can be found [here](#).

**DIFS Received a New Fleet Vehicle** thanks to Travelers Insurance and to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) for the donation. DIFS would like to extend our sincerest gratitude. Read the full release [here](#).

**DIFS would like to recognize Lieutenant Leisa Valerio** for her service and wish the best in her retirement.

[Read all DIFS Announcements >](#)

---

## DIFS in the News

**Man pleads guilty in staged car crash scheme**

*featured on:* [News 4 Jax](#)

**Military-grade explosives and tactical equipment found in a Bartow home**

*featured on:* [Polk County Sheriff's Office](#) / [Miami Herald](#) / [ABC Action News](#) / [Bradenton Herald](#) / [Bay News 9](#) / [The Ledger](#)

**Former funeral home director gets weekend jail sentence**

*featured on:* [News Channel 8](#)

**Big Bend Bomb Squad builds beeping Easter eggs for the visually impaired**

*featured on:* [WCTV](#) / [ABC 27 WTXL](#)

**Winter Garden Man Pleads Guilty To Conspiring To Defraud Insurers In Staged Accident Scam**

*featured on:* [United States Department of Justice](#)

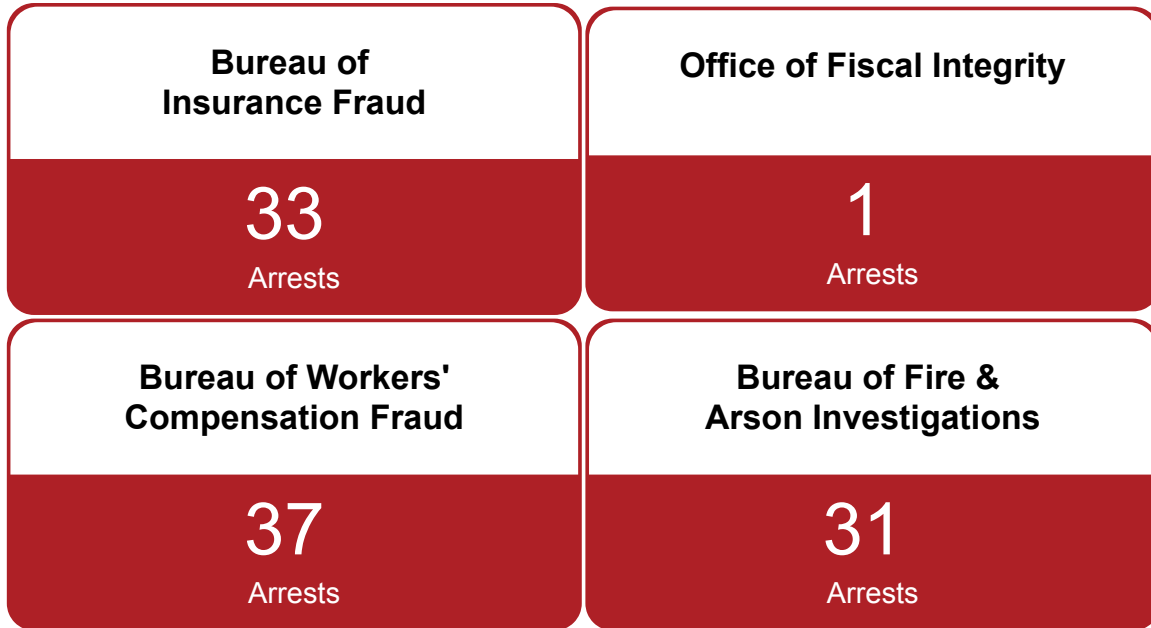


[Read all of the DIFS Press Releases >](#)

# February Arrest Stats



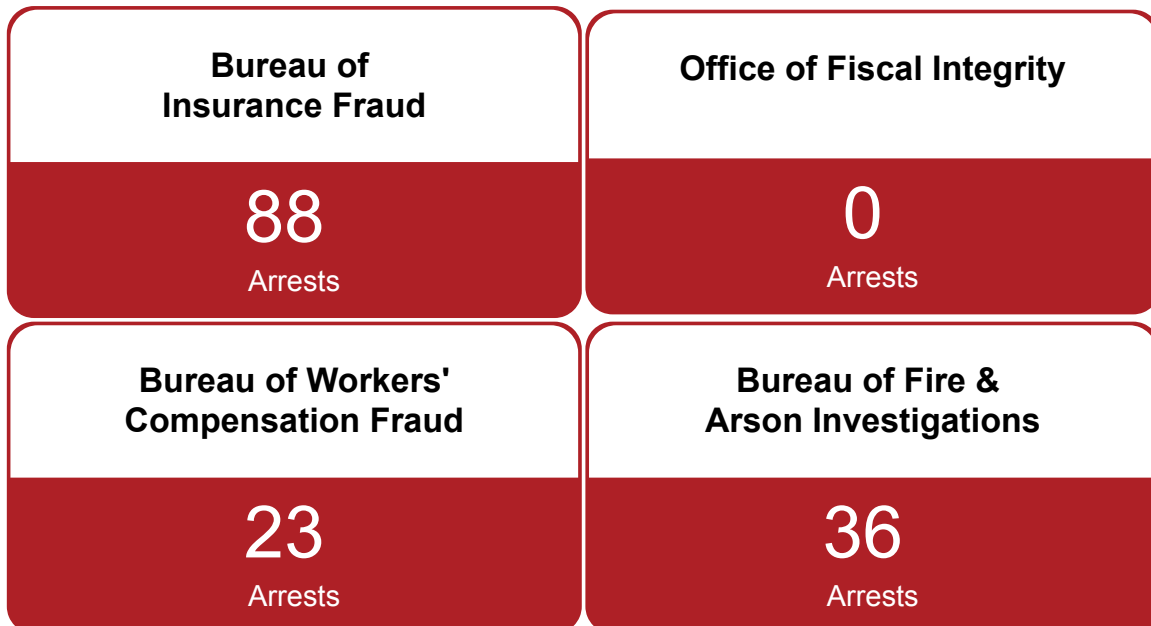
DIFS' law enforcement Bureaus have arrested the following for criminal behaviors



# March Arrest Stats



DIFS' law enforcement Bureaus have arrested the following for criminal behaviors



\*Numbers reflect arrest counts provided at time of publish.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you for reading and subscribing to the DIFSource. This is the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services' monthly newsletter highlighting some of our goings-on around the great state of Florida. If you have any comments, please send us an email by clicking the email icon below. We look forward to receiving your input.

Sincerely,

Leighton Tomkins  
"Lance"

Public Information Officer, DIFS

## INSURANCE HELPLINE 1-800-378-0445

If you suspect an insurance scheme, you can report it safely, easily and anonymously in most cases. Help lower the cost we **ALL** pay for fraud.

### REWARD OFFERED:

Up to **\$25,000** for information leading to the conviction of persons committing complex and organized insurance crimes.



## INSURANCE FRAUD MOST WANTED

Click **HERE** to see the CFO's Most Wanted list.