



# EFFINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF JASON McFARLAND

110 SOUTH 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET, EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS 62401

## SPECIAL NEWS RELEASE

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**November 12, 2019**

***ALL INDIVIDUALS LISTED AS ARRESTED OR ISSUED A CITATION ARE  
INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY IN A COURT OF LAW***

### EFFINGHAM MAN ARRESTED ON ARSON CHARGES

A fire which broke out in an Effingham apartment building on S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street on Monday, November 11, 2019 at approximately 2:42 P.M. was initially deemed suspicious. Joseph M. Wrischnik, 26, Effingham, was taken into custody shortly after 4:00 P.M. and booked into the Effingham County Jail on a single count of Arson - Residential, which is a Class 1 Felony and carries a sentence of 4 - 15 years in state prison if convicted.



The apartment, which only had one out of several units occupied at the time of fire, has been deemed a total loss. No injuries to civilians or responders were reported, and no other structures were damaged.

Effingham firefighters were assisted in battling the blaze by fire companies from Teutopolis and Shumway, while Altamont and Montrose fire personnel handled Effingham City's calls for fire service. Effingham Police Officers were immediately called to assist with traffic control as well as investigate allegations that the fire was intentionally set. After the blaze was extinguished at approximately 7:00 P.M., the scene was turned over to the Office of the State Fire Marshal for further investigation.

**Joseph M. Wrischnik**

Wrischnik is currently being held at Effingham County Jail and will make his first appearance in court on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 to set bond.



Effingham Police Chief Jason McFarland lauded the teamwork of all agencies involved, stating, “Cooperation and open communication between fire and police led to a swift arrest in this incident. Despite punishing weather conditions, responding fire, police and EMS agencies worked together to mitigate the various hazards for all personnel who were involved as well as the public in general.”

*If you see it, say it! The Effingham Police Department encourages you to call the Police Department immediately at 217-347-0774 to report suspicious activity in your neighborhood or business district. Information can be given anonymously by calling the CRIME STOPPERS Tip Line at 217-347-6583. Anonymous callers can receive up to \$1,000 cash rewards.*