

## **April 16, 2012 - Man Charged with Simple Arson**

*Captured when he returned for cell phone*

Shreveport Fire Investigators and the Shreveport Police Department have arrested 52 year-old Powell Ealy and charged him with simple arson for allegedly setting a car on fire early Saturday Morning.

Shreveport 9-1-1 Dispatch received a call at 1:36 AM from a female who stated Ealy was there now setting her car on fire at 727 Hyde Park. Fire crews arrived on scene at 1:42 and extinguished the car. Ealy was not on scene and a Fire Investigator was called out to begin the investigation. While investigating the fire, Ealy returned to get his cell phone that he had dropped at the fire scene which had already been collected as evidence by the investigator. Seeing the investigator and SPD on scene Ealy fled but was captured and arrested very quickly.

Simple arson (LA RS 14;52) is a felony crime and whoever commits the crime of simple arson, where the damage done amounts to five hundred dollars or more, shall be fined not more than fifteen thousand dollars and imprisoned at hard labor for not less than two years nor more than fifteen years. Where the damage is less than five hundred dollars, the offender shall be fined not more than twenty-five hundred dollars or imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than five years, or both.