



**Waco Fire Department  
Fire Marshal's Office**

Jerry Hawk, Fire Marshal  
jerryh@ci.waco.tx.us  
1016 Columbus Ave.  
Waco, Texas 76701  
254/750-1740  
Fax 254/750-1758

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Contact:** Jerry Hawk  
Fire Marshal, Waco Fire Department  
254-750-1740

## **Apartment Fire Investigation Leads to Arson Arrest**

Waco, Texas (September 1, 2011) -- On August 31, 2011, at approximately 6:51 p.m., the Waco Fire Department responded to a structure fire in the Saddlebrook West Apartments at 9821 Chapel Rd. in Waco. A fire had occurred on a ground floor patio area of a two-story eight-unit apartment building and had extended into the apartment unit and into the ceiling above the patio, causing approximately \$25,000 and endangering the lives of the occupants. Because the fire was discovered and reported early, the Fire Department was able to extinguish the fire before it extended to other apartments in the building. There were no injuries from the fire.

A fire investigation was conducted, and the fire was determined to have been caused by an unattended barbeque pit on the patio of the involved apartment, occupied by Patrick Joseph Patraglia. It is a violation of city ordinances to have or operate a barbeque pit on patios and balconies of multiple-family dwellings or within ten feet of such buildings. Doing so endangers the lives of all the tenants. It was determined that Mr. Patraglia knew it was a violation both of city ordinances and of his lease agreement and that he willfully ignored the ordinance prohibiting the barbeque pit. It was determined that Mr. Patraglia was in the process of moving out and leaving the state.

As a result of the investigation, Patrick Joseph Patraglia was taken into custody by the investigating Fire Marshal and transported to the McLennan County Jail where he was charged with Arson of a building. Recklessly starting a fire that damages property belonging to another is a State Jail Felony punishable by a period of confinement not to exceed two years but not less than 180 days and a fine of up to \$10,000.

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