



# DIFS *ource*

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIVE AND FORENSIC SERVICES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2018

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## Welcome to the DIFSource



It is with great pleasure that the Division of Investigative and Forensic Service announces the launch of our newly envisioned monthly newsletter, 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 great state of Florida.

## Bahamian Police Inspectors Visit the DIFS Lab

This December the Bureau of Forensic Services (BFS) welcomed back their annual visitors from the Royal Bahamian Police Force Forensic Laboratory, Inspectors Leonardo Johnson and Tamera Campbell. Though their stay was only a week in length, Inspectors Johnson and Campbell were able to receive some assistance from the Lab's staff and a refresher in the extraction, analysis and interpretation of fire debris samples.

### NEWS OF INTEREST

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[Department of Financial Services](#)

[State Fire Marshal](#)

[Workers' Compensation](#)

[Insurance Agent and Agency Services](#)

Though the Inspector's Lab does not regularly perform fire debris analysis, they make sure to bring some work with them when they come for a visit.

While Inspectors Johnson and Campbell were also in Tallahassee, they were invited and able to attend the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services' (DIFS) Annual Holiday Luncheon where they met with the other local staff of DIFS along with Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis who stopped by to offer his gratitude and warm wishes. Chief Chasteen also made sure to give his guests a tour of the Tallahassee area as Chief Chasteen is always up to offer up a tour of the town and especially of the Forensic Lab.



"They are always wonderful guests as they have become part of the lab "family" over the years," said Chief Chasteen. "The Bureau is happy to assist the Royal Bahamian Police Force. It is for more than reciprocity, as it is helping to resolve the problem of the crime of Arson, which plagues both their nation and ours."

Both Inspector Johnson and Campbell have been coming to the BFS Laboratory for the past four years with Inspector Johnson visiting by himself for two years prior. Chief Chasteen stated with a smile, "We are already looking forward to their return next year."

The Bureau of Forensic Services (BFS) is located in Havana, Florida and is one of only three state forensic laboratories dedicated to the forensic analysis of evidence from fires or explosions in the U.S. The staff work tirelessly to find and identify trace evidence that can have a significant impact on criminal investigations. [Learn more about our Bureau of Forensic Services](#) and what we do.

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## Announcements

**DIFS announces the launch of our FaceBook Page: [Like and Follow us!](#)**

### DIFS Organizational Chart

#### 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

#### STAY CONNECTED





**DIFS' EOD Unit welcomes K9 Oregon:** an 18-month old German Shepard, to continue supporting local law enforcement agencies across Florida with explosives detecting.  
[Read story...](#)

**Congratulations to Detectives Jeffery Ruland, Jennifer Ruland, and Kyle Routt:** for receiving the 2017 Director's Distinguished Service award.

**Congratulations to CIA Fayson Smith:** for receiving the 2017 Exemplary Service award.

**Congratulations to Lieutenant Laquanda Green:** for receiving the 2017 Life Saving award.

**Congratulations to Detective Alex Galan:** for receiving the 2017 Medal of Honor award.

**DIFS would like to recognize Jeffery Ruland:** for his service and wish him the best in his retirement.

[Read all DIFS Announcements ▶](#)

## DIFS in the News

**Former Insurance Agent Accused of Stealing From Elderly**  
*featured on:* [Wink News](#)



**Jacksonville - Construction Company Owner Arrested for Comp Scam**  
*featured on:* [WorkersCompensation.com](#) / [Business Insurance](#) / [WorkCompWire](#) / [FirstCoast News](#)

**Clearwater - Man Arrested After FHP Found Explosive In Car**  
*featured on:* [WRAL.com](#) / [Tampa Bay Times](#) / [TBO](#) / [Palm Harbor Patch](#)

**CFO Swears In New Explosive Detecting K9**  
*featured on:* [Public](#).

**Miami - Woman Arrested Over Fraudulent Insurance Claims**  
*featured on:* [Insurance Journal](#)

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

## December Arrest Stats



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

**Bureau of  
Insurance Fraud**

**Bureau of Fire &  
Arson Investigations**

72  
Arrests

33  
Arrests

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

[View Full Arrest Report >](#)

## 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.