



# DIFS *ource*

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIVE AND FORENSIC SERVICES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 10 October 2018

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## Welcome to CFO Jimmy Patronis' DIFSource

CFO Jimmy Patronis' Division of Investigative and Forensic Service brings to you the DIFSource. Here you will find the latest news, announcements and developments of the Division for the great State of Florida regarding acts of fraud, arson and the misuses of state funds. We are proud of the 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.

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Division of Investigative and Forensic Services  
Receives Accreditation Through Commission for  
Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation

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On Wednesday, October 3, 2018, DIFS was formally accredited by the Commission of Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

The Division was formally assessed in August 14 - 16, 2018, and received a flawless evaluation with no deficiencies noted. The assessors were very complimentary of the Division and made it clear in their report to the Commission that they were impressed with the quality of our staff and the work performed.

Accreditation signifies the Division has been inspected by an independent authority and has met the specific requirements and prescribed standards meant to maintain the highest standards of professionalism in the Law Enforcement community. Accreditation is a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence, and competence.

We could not have achieved this milestone without the tireless efforts, commitment and dedication put forth by every member of the DIFS team.



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**DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIVE & FORENSIC SERVICES**  
**THANKS THOSE WHO HAVE PROVIDED THEIR**  
**TIME AND EFFORTS TO VICTIMS IN THE**  
**AREAS DEVASTATED BY HURRICANE MICHAEL**

Hurricane Michael hit Florida as a Category 4 storm on October 10, 2018. Michael's 155 mph winds and 12-foot storm surge devastated the Florida panhandle. DIFS immediately sprang into action and deployed Emergency Response Teams to areas affected by the storm. We would like to acknowledge the following Officers who were deployed to provide search and rescue, removal of hazardous debris, security, and educating citizens on potential scams.

Jesus Amarante	Michael DeClaire	Amelia Hitchcock	Leonard Miller	Kyle Routt
Erik Anderson	Rafael Delgado	Bruce Hoffman	James Milton	Jorge Sanchez
Jose Andrade	Travis Denson	Amy Huston	Thomas Mitchell	Natasha Sanchez
Toby Athol	Michael Douglas	Robert Jackson	Miguel Mora	John Savino
Jerry Baker	Carlos Dow	Stanley Jean-Felix	Karl Morgan	Michael Scott
Brandon Ball	Scott Erickson	Mark Johnson	Kevin Morris	Seth Schiefer
Evangeline Banks	Osvaldo Estrada	Kevin Jones	Patrick Morrissey	Brian Smith
Kyle Barineau	Adam Faircloth	Craig Kimble	Anthony Mozealous	Andrea Solozano
Josh Bass	John Fernandez	Adam Kline	Bill Newman	Stacy Spirn
John Bell	Kevin Fiedor	Chad Lawnsdall	Hector Noyas	Robert Stephens
Howard Bennett	Sandra Fitzsimons	Matthew Legler	David O'Dell	Larry Strawley
Mark Capps	Shane Gaghan	Jonathan Lent	Maureen Owens	Lawrence Taddeo
Chuck Carter	James Gardner	Barry Lewis	Paul Paterson	Steve Thurber
Steven Chandler	Krista Gaston	David Lockard	Michael Perkins	Raul Vallejo
Sarah Charbonneau	Angela Gay	David Loy	Chris Precious	Ken VanVelsor
Ronnie Cheeks	Stephen Gonzalez	Terence Malaghan	Thomas Pudlo	Charles Wade
Jeff Clare	Eddie Goldbach	Robert Matthews	Jonathan Renfroe	Leslie Weber
Jason Clark	Laquanda Green	Robert Mazzei	Carl Reschke	Kevin Williams
Duane Cooper	Raleigh Gresham	Cody McIntyre	Paul Robbins	Eric Wright
Angela Costello	Charles Grice	Stacey McIntyre	Jada Roberson	Danny Yeager
Jordan Craven	Michael Hennessy	Jason Melvin	Jason Roberts	Cara Yown
Mike Davis	Phillip Henry	Laura Migala	Phil Roman	



If you believe that you have been taken advantage of and are a victim of a scam, please call the Insurance Fraud Tip Line at **1-800-378-0445**



## Announcements

**DIFS Would like to Recognize:**

**Detective Tom Hall** on his retirement. Det. Hall has been with the Bureau of Fire, Arson & Explosives Investigations since October of 2006 serving the Ocala field office.

**DIFS Would like to Congratulate:**

**Lieutenant Kerrian Kindsay** on her promotion to Lieutenant of the Fort Lauderdale, General Fraud Squad, Bureau of Insurance Fraud. Lt. Lindsay joined the Division in January of 2014 as a detective



investigating PIP fraud.

**Lieutenant Jonathan Patterson** on his promotion to Lieutenant of the Miami, Auto Fraud Squad #2, Bureau of Insurance Fraud. Lt. Patterson joined the Division in 2015 as a detective in West Palm Beach investigating PIP fraud.

**Lieutenant Jonathan Lent** on his promotion to Lieutenant of the West Palm Beach, General Fraud Squad #2, Bureau of Insurance Fraud. Lt. Lent joined the Division in February of 2014 as a detective investigating auto fraud.

**Lieutenant Erik Anderson** on his promotion to Lieutenant of the Orlando, Auto Fraud Squad #2, Bureau of Insurance Fraud. Lt. Anderson joined the Division in September of 2013 as a detective investigating PIP and auto fraud.

**Detective Scott Utecht** on being selected to receive the National Award by the 2018 Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) on October 17th. Det. Utecht was recognized due to his involvement in Operation Thoroughbred. The Operation resulted in the halting of a complex multimillion dollar health care fraud scheme leading to the arrest and conviction of 17 defendants.

[Read all DIFS Announcements](#)

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## DIFS in the News

**Florida Woman Arrested Over \$50K Workers' Comp Fraud Scheme**

featured on: [InsuranceJournal](#)



**Florida Disaster Fraud Team Makes Arrest Over \$30K in Fraudulent Irma Claims**

featured on: [InsuranceJournal](#)

**Jury finds Charlotte County woman, 72, guilty of arson & insurance fraud**

featured on: [CharlotteSun](#)

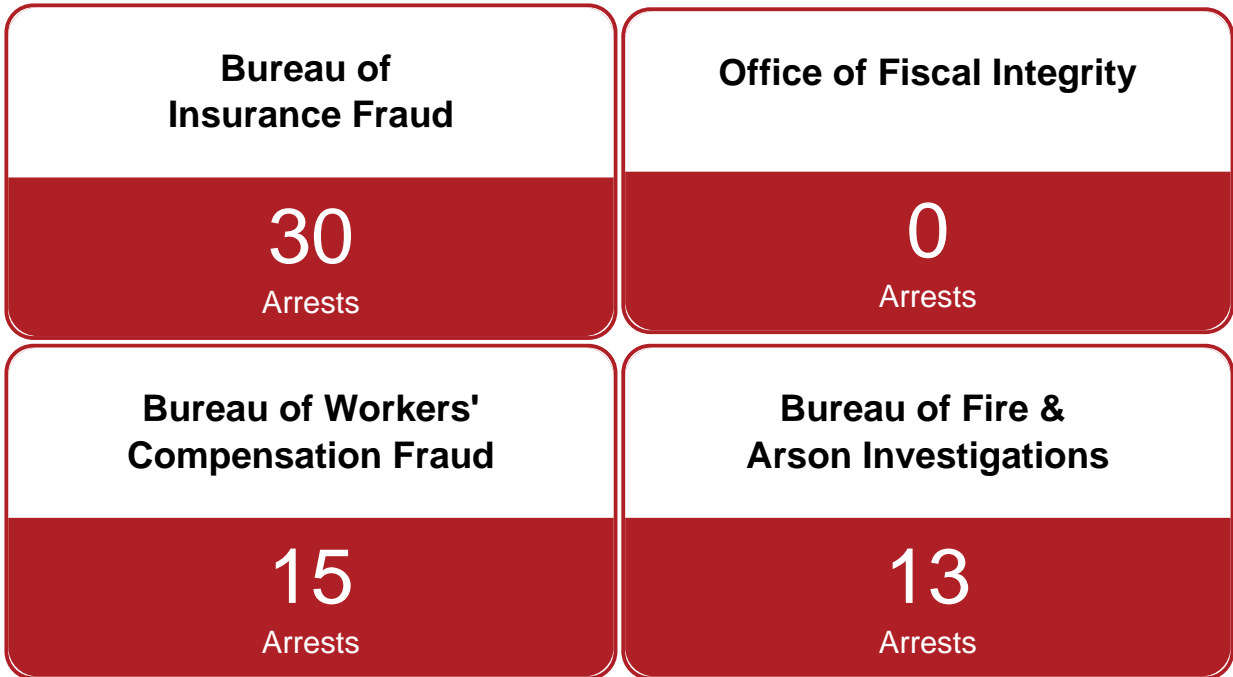
[Read all of the DIFS Press Releases](#)

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## October Arrest Stats



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



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

[View Full Arrest Report](#)

#### 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 hearing from you and receiving your input.

Sincerely,

Leighton "Lance" Tomkins  
DIFS, Public Information Officer

## 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.