

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPARTANBURG MAN RECEIVES 16-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR ARSON

A Spartanburg man received a 16-year prison sentence this afternoon for burning down his neighbor's home.

Claude Daniel Dunagin, 52, was found guilty of second-degree arson at the conclusion of a three-day jury trial. Circuit Judge Derham Cole issued a 25-year prison sentence that was suspended to the service of 16 years.

Dunagin burned the Floyd Road home of John Floyd on Jan. 24, 2008. The 4,800-square-foot residence was under construction when it was set on fire and the Floyd family was out of town. A sheriff's office report estimated the damage at \$750,000.

The damage caused by the blaze made it difficult to pinpoint the actual cause. Deputy Solicitor Derrick Balsa argued the fire couldn't have been accidental because the residence didn't have power and there was no storm in the area. Balsa's case included testimony from people who heard Dunagin talk about setting the fire in the weeks following the crime. Witnesses said Dunagin was upset about Floyd building a house in the woods behind his residence.

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