



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Found Dead in Athens Lodge

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – September 28, 2020 – On Monday, September 28, 2020, just after midnight, officers from the Athens Police Department were dispatched to the Athens Lodge on Liberty Branch Road in reference to suspicious activity.

The Athens Lodge is currently shut down by a court order declaring it to be a nuisance property, pending a formal hearing in October. Under the terms of this order, no one is allowed to be on the property. A caller told dispatchers they witnessed a vehicle drive down the one-way road toward the Lodge and went to investigate. Upon walking toward the Lodge, the caller saw a person running away from the building and called the police. Officers responded to the area and found running water inside the laundry room of the building. Officers located a man (later identified as Danny Lee Dawson of Athens) in a recess behind one of the walls. Mr. Dawson was deceased. Based on the investigation thus far, it appears that he was attempting to remove copper components from the building and was accidentally electrocuted in the process.

The investigation into this incident is ongoing.

The Police Department asks that anyone with information about this incident contact Detective Nick Purkey at (423) 744-2700 Option 2.