# Orange alert

## Orange seized notices are Oconee taxpayers' final warning

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The Delinquent Tax Office is at it again, tagging properties with orange "seized" notices in an effort to collect millions in delinquent 2010 property taxes.

Property owners late on paying taxes on a home or land will have a brightly-colored sign posted signifying that the property is being seized by Oconee County for nonpayment of 2010 taxes.




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**Orange seized notices, such as the one pictured above, are being posted on real estate property delinquent in paying 2010 Oconee County taxes.**

"It's part of the collection process required by law," said Oconee County Delinquent Tax Collector Keith Robinson. "It's another step we go through to notify the defaulting taxpayer."

A total of 8,075 notices, involving some $4.4 million in unpaid taxes, were issued March 17 for real estate, boats and business properties, Robinson said.

As of Wednesday, 3,866 unpaid property tax accounts remained, involving just less than $2 million in uncollected taxes

A defaulted taxpayer first receives notification from the Oconee County Treasurer's Office. The 2010 taxes were due Jan. 18 and were considered delinquent March 17.

"(Property owners) receive two notices by mail and one is certified," Robinson said. "(The seizure notice) is the third step in the delinquent process. We try every means to notify them in case there is a wrong address."

Once the seized notice is placed on a property, the taxpayer has until Sept. 30 to pay the delinquent taxes or the piece of real estate will be part of the Oct. 3 county auction.

Robinson said the process of posting seizure notices on real estate property has been done in Oconee County since the 1980s, but different colors of paper have been used through the years. This year's bright orange is standing out and raising eyebrows.

Oconee County is under contract with Palmetto Posting of Spartanburg to post the seizure notices on delinquent real estate property at $20 per post. The county expects to pay $40,000 for 2,000 postings.

The total number of delinquent tax cases increased about 1,000 for 2010 compared to 2009.

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