



Media Advisory – May 5, 2008

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County fire marshal urges a stop to arson

As part of National Arson Awareness Week (May 4-10), the Snohomish County Fire Marshal's office is asking residents to become more vigilant in watching for intentionally set fires.

Nationwide, arson causes more than \$2 billion in annual property losses. Between January and March 2008, Snohomish County experienced more than \$7 million in arson-related property damage.

“Snohomish County has seen an increase in arson related cases in 2008, accounting for almost 30 percent of our total investigations,” said Snohomish County Fire Marshal Tom Maloney.

Residential and vehicle arsons are two of the top five fire causes in Snohomish County. More than 700 arsons in the United States are started each month by people under 18 years of age, accounting for roughly 54 percent of all arsons nationwide.

To save lives, prevent needless injuries and stop property loss, the office is asking residents to immediately report any suspicious fire activity. Working together, the effects of arson can be reduced, benefiting all of the county's residents.

In addition, the National Fire Protection Association reports that 300 children will die and 3,000 more will be injured this year by juvenile fire setting. The Snohomish County Fire Marshal's office is asking adults to share with children the danger of playing with matches or other forms of fire.

For more information about fire safety, call the Office of the Snohomish County Fire Marshal at 425-388-3557 or visit www.snoco.org and search for key word “fire marshal.”

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