

Media Advisory – April 28, 2009

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Arson Awareness Week – May 3-9, 2009

The Snohomish County Fire Marshal's Office investigated 66 set fires in 2008, resulting in nearly \$10 million in damages.

During the week of May 3-9, the Fire Marshal's Office hopes to draw awareness to these and other costly and dangerous arsons, which can impact every citizen of Snohomish County through the loss of life, increased insurance premiums, expenses associated with extinguishing fires and criminal prosecution.

“To put someone's life and property at risk is unnecessary, dangerous and against the law,” said County Fire Marshal Mike McCrary. “We vigorously investigate and prosecute all purposely set fires in Snohomish County.”

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.

These simple rules can reduce the chance of becoming a victim of arson:

- Keep windows and doors locked.
- Remove unwanted trash and other combustible material from the exterior of homes or business.
- Remove or securely store flammables and hazardous chemicals.
- Illuminate the exterior and entrances. If possible use motion detector lights.
- Keep dumpsters and garbage containers away from buildings and away from the overhang of the roof.
- Secure and monitor unoccupied or abandoned buildings.
- Report suspicious people and activities.
- Keep vehicles locked and secured.

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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