

# Crime Stoppers

## MEDIA RELEASE



Tasmania Fire Service



### CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT ARSON THIS SUMMER

Crime Stoppers, Tasmania Fire Service and Tasmania Police and have joined forces this summer to help combat the scourge of arson and its devastating effects on Tasmanian communities.

“Arson is a serious crime that effects lives and destroys communities,” said Crime Stoppers General Manager, Ron Franks.

According to Tasmania Fire Service Chief Officer, Chris Arnol in 2015/16 deliberately lit fires accounted for 36% of the causes of fires attended, consistent with the previous two years (40% in 14/15 and 13/14).

“Arson costs everyone and leads to significant damage, puts firefighters at risk and diverts them from other emergencies. Bushfires represent the highest mass risk to the community.”

“Our crews also respond to an average of 650 vehicle fires per year, of which 57% are deliberately lit,” Mr Arnol said.

Tasmania Police Deputy Commissioner Scott Tilyard reinforced the criminal and public safety aspects of arson and highlighted that arson vigilance will help to save lives, properties, businesses and communities as a whole.

“Stopping arson in our community is everyone’s responsibility and people who report suspicious arson activities anonymously to Crime Stoppers are helping to create a safer Tasmania,” he said.

Research undertaken by the Monash University, indicates that arson is Australia’s most costly crime. These costs include loss of life, injury, psychological and social upheaval, financial loss to individuals and businesses, damage to infrastructure and environmental destruction.\*

Mr Franks highlighted that “All Tasmanians have a role to play when it comes to staying safe, this summer. It’s as simple as looking out for each other and reporting any suspicious activity”.

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By reporting anonymously to Crime Stoppers, the community can help limit the damaging, costly effects of arson and ensure that we all enjoy a safe summer.

### **Stop arson**

In an emergency call (triple zero) 000.

To report crime contact Crime Stoppers anonymously on **1800 333 000**.

Crime Stoppers is a not for profit community organisation, helping to keep families and communities safe. We work closely with police to provide valuable information from the public to help solve crime. Any information you provide is anonymous - so if you see something or you **know something, say something**.

\*The real cost of bushfire arson, Dr Janet Stanley.

### **Media Enquiries**

For media inquiries please contact Ron Franks, General Manager, CRIME STOPPERS TASMANIA on 0417 525 855 or [Ron.Franks@police.tas.gov.au](mailto:Ron.Franks@police.tas.gov.au).

### **MEDIA EVENT DETAILS:**

**Date:** Thursday 1 December 2016

**Time:** 10am

**Venue:** Hobart Fire Station, Melville Street

**Comments:** TFS Chief Fire Officer Chris Arnol, Deputy Police Commissioner Scott Tilyard and Crime Stoppers General Manager, Ron Franks and Deputy Chair, David Daniels will be available for comment.

If you know something, say something!

Call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.