

Crime Stoppers

MEDIA RELEASE

3 Jun 2019



Crime Stoppers Week 28 May to 3 June 2019

\$10,000 reward for information about deliberately lit social housing fires

Give the flick to fire bugs! Arson is Australia's most costly crime.

Crime Stoppers Tasmania is offering its largest reward ever, of up to \$10,000 for any information that leads to a conviction for deliberately lit fires on social housing properties.

Over the past five years, the number of social housing properties damaged by fire has averaged around 30 houses per year. This year there has already been 20 properties state-wide that have been deliberately lit.

Over one-third of fires attended by the Tasmania Fire Service are deliberately lit, and all fire-related crimes put people's lives at risk and can result in death or injury.

Crime Stoppers Tasmania Chair, Mr David Daniels OAM says, "It's important that the public and police work together to make Tasmania a safer place, and providing information to Crime Stoppers can assist police to protect the community."

Mr Daniels has appealed to the public; "If you know something that might assist Tasmania Police to solve fire-related crimes, please call Crime Stoppers now. Callers can remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward up to \$10,000 if the information provided leads to an arrest".

Mr Daniels says the issue of deliberately-lit fires on social housing properties is having an impact on the most vulnerable members of the community.

"An increase in fire-damaged houses means there is less housing stock available until they are repaired or rebuilt. The cost of damages to these homes also means there is less money to improve the quality of amenities in social housing."

Mission Australia Housing has circulated examples of cost of deliberate damage to their properties:

- Mission Australia Housing has circulated examples of cost of deliberate damage to their properties: \$50,000 damages from a house fire is equivalent to 15-20 heat pumps;
- \$10,000 in deliberate damages is equivalent for 6 full house re-carpets; and
- \$5,000 worth of damage is the cost of 4-5 hot water service replacements.

Crime Stoppers Tasmania is a not for profit organisation. Help us keep your family and community safe.

Report crime anonymously - www.crimestopperstas.com.au or 1800 333 000.

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No piece of information is too small, and minor details can assist investigations.

If you know something, say something

Report anonymously: 1800 333 000 or www.crimestopperstas.com.au

For all emergencies call Triple Zero (000)

Media Enquiries

For media enquiries please contact CRIME STOPPERS TASMANIA Chief Executive Officer Mariae Leckie ceo@crimestopperstas.com.au or Chair David Daniels 0400 118 666.

Background - Crime Stoppers Tasmania

Crime Stoppers Tasmania operates as an independent non-profit, community organisation that supports crime solving through providing anonymous mechanisms for reporting crime. It is part of an international program that has been in existence for over forty years.

By offering anonymity and rewards (for information leading to charges being laid) Crime Stoppers combats the three major problems faced by the police in generating crime-solving information:

- Fear of reprisal
- Apathy
- Reluctance to get involved

Create a safer Tasmania for our children, for our families, for each other.



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