Annually nearly 1,000 people die in arson fires. Thousands more are injured. And over $1 billion is lost in property damage.

It’s pretty frightening—and every year it gets worse, as the number and severity of fires increase.

We think it’s time to do something about it—and we’re willing to pay people to help us.

It’s all part of a special state-wide Arson Watch Reward Program. We’ve set up a 24-hour Arson Watch Hotline so people can call us whenever they witness (or just suspect) an arson fire. And we’ve established an Arson-Watch fund, so we can pay up to $5,000 to anyone who provides us with information which helps us prevent or detect an arson crime. (Check the rules which follow to find out exactly how the Reward Program works.)

To let people all over Rhode Island know about our program, we’re putting together a comprehensive advertising campaign, using radio, television, newspapers, billboards, posters, bumper stickers and more. And we’re also encouraging involvement through school programs and neighborhood task forces.

Arson is one of the fastest growing crimes in our country. And it’s one of the scariest—because it destroys people and property. It’s a crime we all live with. Isn’t it time we did something about it.

ArsonWatch Hotline: 401-383-7723

This Number Catches Fire

Sponsored by the Property and Casualty Insurance Companies of Rhode Island
PROGRAM INFORMATION
AND RULES
To make a nomination, fill out the Application
found on our website:
www.arsonwatchrewardprogram.org.
Mail this and any supplemental information,
including but not limited to police, RI fire
incident and investigation reports, scene
photographs, newspaper articles, etc., to the
address noted on the front of the application.

REPORTING AN ARSON FIRE: Information on
impending fires or fires that have already occurred should
be reported to one of the following:
1. State Fire Marshal’s Office
   1951 Smith Street
   North Providence, RI 02911
2. Arson Watch Hotline 401-383-7723
3. Local Fire or Police Department

REWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE: A Reward
Selection Committee composed of a representative from
the Department of Public Safety - State Fire Marshal,
Department of Business Regulation Insurance Division,
Fire Chiefs Association and Police Chiefs Association will
review all nominations and make the final decision in
granting rewards.

The decision of the Reward Selection Committee will be
binding in all matters relating to rewards. Rewards are not
contingent on criminal convictions. Any member may
recuse him/herself for good reason. Even in a case where
there is no arrest or indictment, a reward can be provided.

INDIVIDUAL REWARDS:
1. All individual rewards during any given year will be
made from a reward fund. The amount of all rewards will
be determined by the Reward Selection Committee based
upon the extent of assistance the information provides in
solving an arson crime or bomb incident, with a maximum
of $5,000.
2. A reward application will be considered when deemed
appropriate by the Reward Selection Committee.
3. Nominations for individual rewards may be made by a
fire chief, police chief, State Fire Marshal, or any other
person with the exception of prosecutors.
4. Firefighters (both paid and nonpaid), police and other
law enforcement officials, prosecutors, insurance
company personnel or agents whose connections with
the incident were within their normal course of
employment or duties, and private fire investigators and
members of their families, are not eligible for a reward.
5. Only information on fires, explosions or materials used
in the preparation of an infernal machine and incidents
that have occurred or are planned to occur in the state of
Rhode Island will be considered as the basis for a reward.
6. The identity of the nominee may be withheld by the
nominator or by the Reward Selection Committee if any
one or more of the following is true:
   a. If the possibility exists that the nominee might suffer
direct physical harm or suffer from acts of retribution
by the release and public knowledge of the nominee's
identity.
   b. Or, if the release of the nominee's identity might
jeopardize a beneficial relationship between the
nominee and fire service, law enforcement or criminal
justice systems.
   c. Or, if the release of the nominee's identity will tend to
have a detrimental effect on the public or private
investigation and prosecution of the individuals
responsible for any crime involving arson or explosives.
   d. Or, if in the judgment of the nominator or the Reward
Selection Committee, the release of the nominee's
identity is not necessary or advisable.

If it is decided to maintain the anonymity of the nominee,
the nominator shall arbitrarily select a seven-digit number
and enter that number in the nominee portion of the
reward application form for identification purposes.
7. No promises to pay a nominee will be made and no
agency or individual has the authority to promise a
nominee he/she will be paid. The program is strictly
voluntary and any person who feels a reward will hinder a
case in any way can choose not to participate.

GROUP REWARDS:
1. All group awards may be in the form of a plaque and
   if deemed appropriate by the Reward Selection
Committee a monetary award may be considered.
2. Nominees may include, but need not be limited to,
   fire departments, police departments, educational
   institutions, insurance companies or any civic
   community, or other organizations that have made
   an outstanding contribution to arson prevention
   and/or arson education.
3. Nominations may be made by any duly elected
   official of any political subdivision of the state, state
   legislators, insurance industry representatives, or
   any other person.

ArsonWatch
Reward Program

Revised 04-01-15