



# DC • ATF • MD ARSON TASK FORCE

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## Task Force Statement

9/15/03

**“The Task Force would like the person responsible for these fires to contact us, either through our phone tip line, our post office box, or email address. From our understanding of individuals involved in this type of behavior, we know they often desire to communicate a message to society at large. We want this person to know that we are a willing audience for that message. We hope he may be watching, or listening to this request. We feel we may understand him and can relate to him.**

**This firesetting may be a means for him to relieve stress or frustration caused by other people. This stress may be borne out of some type of anger or unwanted feeling of powerlessness. In a complex world, especially at this time, we can all understand what stress is. This individual may feel pain and anger more than the average person and therefore chose to relieve those feelings through firesetting. We understand.**

**It may be that this firesetting, which at first may have made him feel powerful, has become like a drug, the use of which may be getting out of control. That is understandable. This person may not have had the best of home lives growing up and is suffering now as an adult for it. He may himself have been victimized in his past. One way he can truly relieve his pain and regain control is to seek assistance with the pain and anger he is feeling. It may also be that this firesetting, even though it may cause him anxiety, may also have an exciting, if not thrilling, aspect to it. Again, we understand this and will not hold those feelings against him.**

**From our experience with these types of cases, we know that it is most probable that we will identify and apprehend this person. If he does choose to contact us first and help us understand him, it will go a long way in how he is dealt with by authorities. He may not realize how much he has the power to control his destiny and one first step in doing that is to contact people who understand him. We are also concerned that innocent people will continue to be in harm's way as a result of this firesetting. This concern extends to him as well. Accidents can happen to the best of us and we do not want to see him get hurt either.**

**So on behalf of the Task Force and the entire Fire Service community at large, we request that the person involved in these incidents contact us at the numbers or addresses listed below.”**

**301-77-ARSON (301-772-7766)**

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**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT • DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FIRE AND EMS DEPARTMENT • BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS, & EXPLOSIVES • PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT • METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT • OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL – MARYLAND • ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT • MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES • MARYLAND STATE POLICE**



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**Arson Task Force, P.O. Box 211, Bladensburg, MD 20710**

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DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES • MARYLAND STATE POLICE**