



# **ARSON TASK FORCE**

## **ARSON TASK FORCE CONTINUES TO FOLLOW LEADS**

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For Immediate Release  
September 3, 2004

BALTIMORE, MD – On August 30, 2004, members of the Arson Task Force responded to a fire at 4012 Elmwood Drive, Fairfax County, VA. Investigators from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, who are members of the Arson Task Force, requested that additional task force members respond to the scene to assist in the investigation of this fire. The evidence has been taken to ATF's National Laboratory for analysis.

The Arson Task Force also wants to announce that Chief Ronald Blackwell will remain as the spokesperson for the Task Force. Chief Blackwell has long been the public "face" of the Task Force, reassuring the citizens in our communities that everything was being done to apprehend the person(s) responsible for the fires. Since the Anne Arundel County Fire Department is a partner in the Task Force, Chief Blackwell will remain in this role. In addition, each jurisdiction will continue to provide on scene information to the media at any fire scene. Finally, any Arson Task Force inquiries will be routed through ATF's Public Information Officer Kelly Long of the Baltimore Field Division.

The Arson Task Force will continue to be made up of investigators from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Baltimore and Washington DC Field Divisions, Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department, Prince George's County Police Department, Washington DC Fire/EMS Department, Metropolitan Police Department, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue, Anne Arundel County Fire Department, Howard County Fire Rescue, Howard County Police Department, Alexandria Fire Department, Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office, Maryland State Police, and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department.

**-MORE**

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Since its inception, the Task Force has followed over 800 leads and interviewed in excess of 1000 people in an effort to identify the person(s) responsible for a series of fires in Prince George's County and Montgomery County, Maryland, Washington, DC, and Alexandria and Fairfax, Virginia. Although the serial arsonist has not been apprehended, the Task Force has made other arson related arrests.

Most notably, Paul Dubois who was arrested and charged with Arson, Destruction of Property, Second Degree Burglary and Obstruction of Justice and was recently sentenced to six (6) years in federal prison. Another individual, Noel Gibson, came to the attention of the Task Force after he allegedly impersonated a fire investigator. He has been charged with making false statements, and is currently awaiting trial. The public's help and the thorough investigation conducted by investigators helped to identify the above subjects.

Arson investigations are very complex, often taking several months to complete. Once again, we are asking for assistance from the public in helping to identify this fire setter. People from all walks of life have been convicted of arson, including professional people, public safety officials, and others. An ATF behavioral profiler has provided the Task Force with a list of traits and characteristics that might assist someone who may know the individual responsible for these fires.

**THIS LIST OF TRAITS AND CHARACTERISTICS IS NOT CONSIDERED ALL – INCLUSIVE AND THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOT DISCOUNT AN INDIVIDUAL THEY SUSPECT IF HE DOES NOT HAVE THESE TRAITS .**

- He may abuse alcohol
- He may engage in reckless driving or unsafe practices at work.
- When stressed or angered, he may reveal a more callous and uncaring side
- He may lead a secretive life and become skilled at lying
- These traits have probably caused problems with his family and in relationships.

We remind the public that a reward in the amount of \$35,000 has been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) responsible for these fires.

**CITIZENS WITH INFORMATION MAY CONTACT THE ARSON TASK FORCE AT:**

**301-77-ARSON**

**FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES, CONTACT:**

**ATF SPECIAL AGENT KELLY LONG**

**410-779-1700**

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