



Contact

For Immediate Release

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Arson Hotline Nabs Juveniles in Austin Fire

An anonymous phone call to the state's Arson Hotline has resulted in the arrests of two juveniles in connection with an apartment fire in Austin. The fire caused an estimated \$10,000 in damage.

Austin fire investigators say two boys, ages 12 and 14, set fire to a mattress inside an abandoned fourplex in northeast Austin in the afternoon of April 21. The two boys along with a girl jumped off a two story balcony to escape the fire.

Austin firefighters managed to contain the blaze to the one unit located at 10116 Diamond Back Trail. Both juvenile suspects have been arrested, charged with first degree felony arson and placed in the Gardner Betts Juvenile Detention Center.

Captain Andy Reardon of the Austin Fire Department said arson investigators had little to go on until they received the tip from the state's Arson Hotline. "All we had was a description of two boys and a girl running from the fire," said Reardon. "The Arson Hotline tip provided us a name which led to confessions and arrests."

Persons who place phone calls to the Arson Hotline can be rewarded up to \$1,000 if the information leads to an arrest or conviction. Callers can anonymously contact the Arson Hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week to report suspected arsonists. The arson hotline phone number is 1-877- 4 FIRE 45 (1-877-434-7345).

The Arson Hotline was created and is funded by A Texas Advisory Council on Arson or **ATAC** that serves as an advisory body for the State Fire Marshal's Office.

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