



Contact

For Immediate Release

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Texas Arson Hotline Results in Austin Arrests

Two 14 year old boys have been placed in Austin's Gardner Betts Juvenile Detention Center after a Texas Arson Hotline tip led to their arrest on charges of first degree felony arson. Both juveniles have admitted to starting the fire which destroyed a south Austin home.

Austin firefighters were called to 3338 Paisano Trail on March 11, where a two-story home was fully involved. The loss was valued at \$90,000. Austin fire investigators say they were about to suspend their investigation into the case until information came from the Hotline.

"We add little to go on and would have made no arrests without the aid of the Texas Arson Hotline call," said Captain Andy Reardon with Austin Fire/Arson Investigations. "The call nailed them."

Captain Reardon said fires were started in a downstairs microwave and upstairs. The juveniles face charges that carry penalties of 5 to 99 years of incarceration. The individual who contacted the Texas Arson Hotline has been rewarded.

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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