

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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UPDATE

SUFFOLK, VA (November 9, 2021) Battalion Chief Chris Cornwell, Suffolk Fire Marshal, has advised that following investigation, a 12-year old female has been charged with Arson of an Occupied Dwelling related to the arson that occurred on October 27, 2021, at Florence Bowser Elementary School.

The juvenile has also been charged with Arson of an Occupied Dwelling related to the fire that occurred on October 5, 2021, at a residence in the 300 block of S. Main Street in Downtown Suffolk. That Media Release will also be updated separately.

Their investigations remain ongoing at this time, and additional charges are pending.

Virginia State Code prohibits law enforcement from identifying juveniles charged with a criminal offense.

FIRE MARSHAL INVESTIGATING ARSON AT FLORENCE BOWSER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SUFFOLK, VA (October 27, 2021) The Suffolk Fire Marshal's Office is currently investigating an arson incident that occurred earlier this afternoon, Wednesday,

October 27, 2021, at Florence Bowser Elementary School, located at 4540 Nansemond Parkway.

Emergency Communications was contacted at 2:36 p.m., and the first units arrived at 2:42 p.m.

The fire was confined to a trashcan affixed to the wall in a girls' restroom on the second floor of the facility. The school had been evacuated, and the fire was out upon arrival of firefighters. There were no injuries.

Responding units included Engines 6, 10, and 25; Ladders 3, 5, and 6; Medic 5; Rescue 1; Safety 1; Battalions 2 and 3; and Fire Marshal 4 and 6.

Battalion Chief Chris Cornwell, Suffolk Fire Marshal, advised that it was determined that the fire was intentionally set. They are currently questioning two female students, an 11-year-old and a 12-year-old, related to the incident while accompanied by parents. The investigation remains ongoing at this time.

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