

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BRUSH FIRE RULED ARSON

Suffolk, VA (February 24, 2017) – Suffolk Fire & Rescue crews responded early Thursday evening, February 23rd, to a brush fire that has now been ruled as arson.

Emergency Communications received a call at 5:06 p.m. advising of the incident in the 300 block of Newport Street in a ravine behind the Butler Paper Recycling, Inc. facility, and the first crews arrived at 5:12 p.m.

Captain James Broglin advised that upon arrival firefighters found heavy smoke with the fire encroaching from the brush-filled ravine to approximately 10 to 20 feet from the facility. The ravine at the rear of the property is approximately 30 feet deep, and one quarter to one half of an acre was burned. The fire was called under control at 5:48 p.m. There were no injuries.

Responding units included Engines 1, 2, 3 and 4, Ladder 3, Rescue 1, Medic 1A, EMS 1, Battalion 1, Brush 1, and the Fire Marshal.

Lieutenant Charles Chapin, Fire Marshal, has advised that upon preliminary investigation three juveniles were seen running from the area immediately following the incident. He reminds citizens to stay vigilant, and if they see suspicious behavior or activity, to call 911.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Line at 1-888-Lock-U-UpSM. When calling Crime Line, callers do not have to give their names or appear in court. Citizens can also utilize TipSoft to anonymously submit crime-related tips through the Web, a text message, or from any Android or iPhone mobile device with the [TipSubmit mobile app](#). Tips can be submitted by visiting www.tipsubmit.com, or by texting the word “**CRIMES**” (274637) with the keyword **SPDVATIP**. TipSoft also supports users’ ability to submit videos or photos using the TipSoft mobile app. If information leads to an arrest, the caller or “tipster” could qualify for a reward of up to \$1,000.

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