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Nashville Fire Department Investigators Looking for Arsonist of Church Fire *Arsonist threw a Molotov cocktail through The Axis Church window*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (September 15, 2021) Nashville Fire Department Fire Investigators are looking for an arsonist that threw a Molotov cocktail through the window of Axis Church early Tuesday morning, September 14, 2021.

Around 1:48 am Metro DEC Dispatchers sent NFD personnel to 1423 2nd Avenue North, for a reported building fire. A worker, in a building adjacent to the church, heard the intrusion and called 9-1-1.

When fire crews arrived on scene, they found a damaged window and light smoke showing in the entryway of the church. As crews gained access and investigated, there was a small fire located in the building that was spreading to rugs and equipment in the front hallway. Crews worked quickly to extinguish the fire and prevent it from spreading further.

NFD Fire Investigators, ATF and MNPD gathered information from the scene and the 9-1-1 caller. A suspect description has not yet emerged. Surveillance video (attached) shows the view from inside the church when the window was breached.

Investigators are looking for any information that may lead to the identification of the arsonist. When apprehended, the suspect is expected to be charged with Arson (Class B Felony).

Call the Tennessee Arson Hotline at 1-800-762-3017 with information about this incident. The hotline is answered 24 hours a day. You can remain anonymous when providing information.

Cash awards up to \$5,000 are paid for information leading to an arrest or conviction.

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1423 2nd Ave North Surveillance.mov



Nashville Fire Department Mission Statement:

The mission of the Nashville Fire Department is to provide high quality fire, medical and rescue emergency responses. The NFD also provides community support services to the citizens and visitors within Nashville and Davidson County. This ensures they can work and reside in a community where an all hazards response minimizes harm to life, property, and the environment.

Nashville Fire Department Director Chief William Swann Vision Statement:

My commitment to you is to work to make the Nashville Fire Department well-trained, progressive, and a highly respected fire department. We will continue to be committed to promoting inclusion, equality, and respect. My promise to you is to make sure we are all creating a safer community through prevention, preparedness, and effective emergency response.



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