



MEDIA RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION



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SENTENCING SET TODAY IN SIGNIFICANT ARSON CASE

(Columbia, MD) – Howard County Fire & Rescue Chief Joseph Herr and Howard County Police Chief William McMahon praise the work of Howard County's Fire Investigation Unit today after sentencing was set earlier in a significant county arson case. Scott Allen Pryor of Essex has been sentenced to 63 years in prison, after having been convicted on October 23, 2008 of first degree arson, first degree assault, first degree burglary, two counts of second degree assault and two counts of reckless endangerment. Those charges were associated with a 2007 fire that severely damaged a Columbia townhouse and injured two persons in the home.

Diligent work on the part of the Howard County Fire Investigation Unit was essential in this case. That unit is a team made up of fire marshals from the Howard County Department of Fire & Rescue and detectives from the Howard County Police Department, working together. Howard County Fire & Rescue's accelerant detection canine also played a crucial role in this investigation.

On November 19, 2007 at approximately 7:49 am, Howard County firefighters were called to the 5700 block of Flagflower Place in Columbia for a reported house fire. Upon arrival at the scene, firefighters found one victim who had escaped the fire by jumping from a window, and they received reports of another victim still inside the home. Firefighters located and rescued the second victim, and extinguished the fire. Fire investigators determined that ignitable liquids had been involved and that the fire was incendiary in nature. Through the combined efforts of the county's fire and police departments, Scott Allen Pryor was arrested on November 21, 2007 in conjunction with this incident.

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