

# Several small arsons blaze throughout City Lake Stevens Fire, police need community's help in finding culprits

BY PAM STEVENS | MANAGING EDITOR

Last Spring fires were set in a bathroom at Lundeen Park and also at Lake Stevens High School, fortunately Lake Stevens Police and Lake Stevens Fire were able to find and charge the culprits of those fires. Unfortunately, other fires have been popping up all over town since mid-July.

Street signs, real estate signs and playground equipment have all been targets of the unidentified suspects as well as garbage cans and Sanicans.

Investigators are looking into commonalities to determine if there is a connection between the arsons. It is believed however, that these are not accidental occurrences.

"Typically they are in the middle of the night anywhere from 1 to 4 o'clock in the morning is

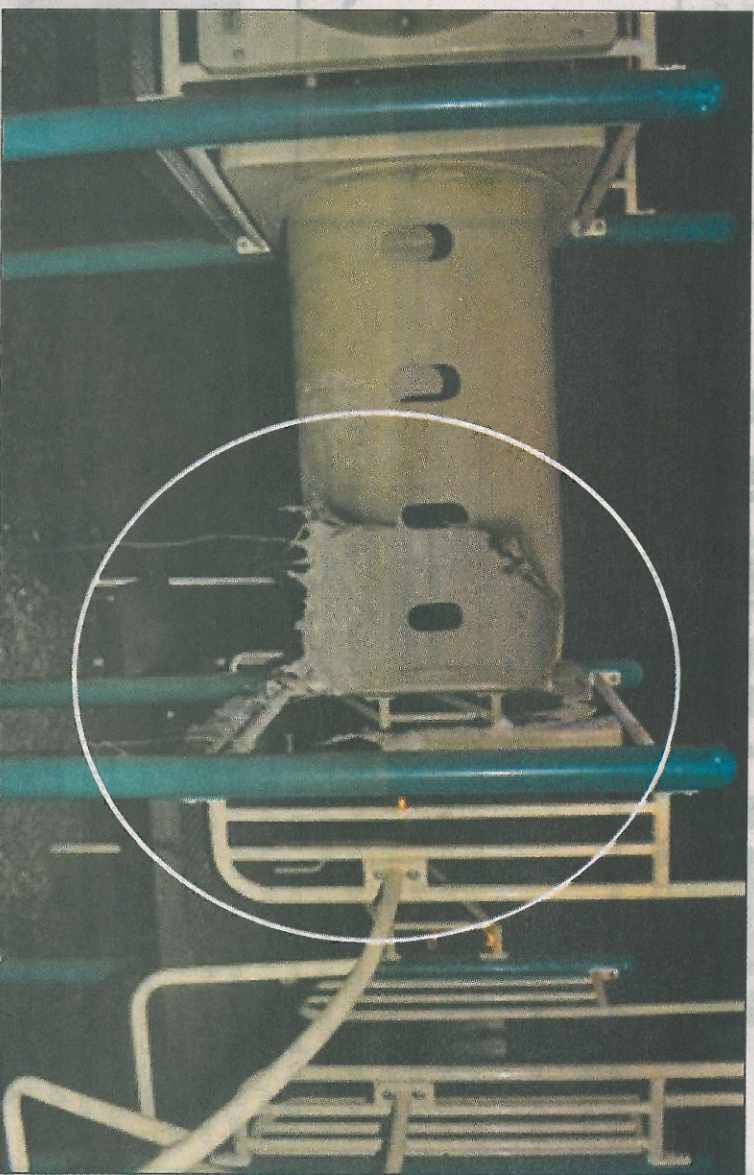
typically when they happen," Lake Stevens Fire Marshal Robert Marshall said. "Some of them happen on the weekends and some happened in the middle of the week."

Investigators usually see higher occurrences of these types of fires during the summer months. They don't normally have these types of problems during the school year.

"The thing that got my attention is that typically these things occur in the summer when kids are out of school but a majority of these are happening with kids in school," Marshall explained. "Whether we are looking at one individual or multiple individuals is not yet certain."

Each of the fires, so far have been spotted by neighbors or

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Playground equipment on 116th Ave. NE was set on fire by unknown suspects.

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passersby and have been contained in a short amount of time.

Some of the fires included in this latest string include the crawl tube at Mt. Pilchuck Elementary, the playground equipment on 116th St. NE, For Sale signs on both Lundeen Parkway and 113th St. NE, a street sign on 103rd St. SE, garbage cans at the Boys & Girls Club, a pile of leaves at Lundeen Park and also a sparkler bomb set in a Sanican on 20th St. SE.

If you have any information regarding these fires please contact Lake Stevens Fire Marshal Robert Marshall at 425-212-3042 or the Lake Stevens Police Department at 425-334-9537.



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Arsonists set fire to a real estate sign along Lundeen Parkway.