Follow-up to Recent Timely Warning Notification of Arson on Fairfax Campus:

April 30, 2015 - A trained arson investigator was unable to determine if the cause of the fire outside of Sandbridge hall on April 21, 2015 was unlawful and intentional. All available evidence suggests that the cause of fire was unintentional, and most likely the result of an improperly disposed of cigarette.

The George Mason University Department of Police & Public Safety and the Environmental Health & Safety Office reminds members of the Mason community of the following smoking fire safety tips:

- The safest place to smoke is outside of the home. Use a sturdy ashtray or a can filled with sand to collect ashes.
- Use ashtrays with a wide, stable base that are hard to tip over. If it wobbles, it won’t work.
- Ashtrays should be set on something sturdy and hard to start on fire, like a table.
- Put it out. All the way. Every time. The cigarette needs to be completely stubbed out in the ashtray.
- Soak cigarette butts and ashes in water before throwing them away. NEVER toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash.
- Don’t put ashtrays on sofas and chairs. Chairs and sofas catch on fire fast and burn fast. If people have been smoking in your home, check for cigarettes under cushions.
- If you are drowsy or falling asleep, put it out. Smoking in bed is very dangerous.¹

TIMELY WARNING
Serious or Continuing Threat to the Community
Arsons
April 22, 2015

To the George Mason University Community,

In compliance with the “Timely Warning” provisions of the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act of 1998, the George Mason University Department of Police & Public Safety is giving notice of an arson that occurred outside of Sandbridge Hall on the Fairfax Campus.

- On Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 4:44 PM, an unknown person set fire to a trash can outside of Sandbridge Hall causing minor damage. No injuries were reported.

The recent incident may be related to two other arsons that occurred on March 31, 2015 and April 1, 2015:

On Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 1:48 PM, an unknown person set fire to a trash can in a second floor men’s restroom of Robinson Hall – B causing minor damage. No injuries were reported.

On Wednesday, April 1, 2015 sometime between 2:00 AM and 3:00 AM, an unknown person set fire to debris in a second floor men’s restroom of Robinson Hall – B causing minor damage. No injuries were reported.

The Department of Police & Public Safety is seeking information about a possible suspect seen at the first Arson incident on April 1, 2015. The suspect was described as a tall, thin, dark complexioned male with curly black hair, wearing a long sleeve blue shirt.

Anyone with information pertaining to these crimes can contact the Department of Police & Public Safety at (703) 993-2810, or by using the Crime Solvers Anonymous Tip Hot-Line at (703) 993-4111.

The Department of Police & Public Safety reminds members of the Mason community to report any smoke or fires immediately by calling 911, and to report all suspicious persons or incidents, however minor, to Mason Police immediately at (703) 993-2810 or 911.

Why am I receiving this notification? Mason is dedicated to promoting a safe and secure environment for learning, living, working or visiting. This notification is part of our efforts to prevent and solve crimes and is in compliance with the “Timely Warning” provision of the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Police and Campus Crime Statistics Act of 1998. Mason’s Annual Security and Fire Report is available at: http://police.gmu.edu/annual-security-report/.