



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2021



Gina Y. Sweat, Director of Fire Services  
CONTACT: Lieutenant Wayne A. Cooke  
Public Information Officer, MFD  
901-636-5682 O, 901-508-0614 C  
Wayne.Cooke@memphistn.gov

**COMMERCIAL FIRE**  
**4297 Stage Road (Better Choice Childcare)**  
**(Arson Suspect Sought)**



MEMPHIS, TN - The Memphis Fire Department responded to two (2) arson fires at 4297 Stage Road, Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 2:36 a.m. and 7:51 p.m. The first fire was intentionally set to the interior of the childcare van/bus. The second fire was intentionally set in multiple locations in the interior of the building. Firefighting operations were conducted, and the incidents were brought under control without any injuries to firefighters or civilians. Total damage for both incidents is estimated at \$35,000 vehicle, \$15,000.00 building and 8,500.00 contents. The adjacent business (4288 Fayette) sustained \$10,000.00 structural damage and \$6,000.00 contents.

This is an active investigation. Fire Investigators are seeking information regarding both arson fires. ***Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 528-CASH (2274) or the State Arson Hotline at 1-800-762-3017. You could be eligible to receive a cash reward from Crime Stoppers of Memphis and Shelby County, Inc.***

Arson is a crime of maliciously setting fire to the property of another or of burning one's own property for improper purposes. Arson fires have proven to be devastating in many ways including but not limited to loss of life, destruction of property, increased insurance rates and outrageous expenses as a result of investigations and legal procedures. Never delay reporting arson related crimes. Remember that 9-1-1 is for emergencies only. For all other FIRE/EMS NON-EMERGENCY issues please dial (901) 458-8281.

###