Maryland State Fire Marshal

News Release

Martin O'Malley
Governor

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State Fire Marshal

MULTIPLE JUVENILES CHARGED IN SODA BOTTLE BOMB INCIDENTS

CARROLL COUNTY, MD (February 23, 2014) Deputy State Fire Marshals have concluded two separate incidents involving the making, possession, and detonation of what are commonly known as Soda Bottle Bombs.

The investigation began on February 22, 2014 at approximately 8:45 P.M. Deputy State Fire Marshals were requested to contact the Maryland State Police Westminster Barrack in reference to reports of several soda bottle bomb detonations in the Longbow Road area of Mt. Airy.

Post blast investigation was conducted at 501 and 1101 Longbow Road. Both properties are single family dwellings and are owner occupied. No damage was reported to either of the structures. One female juvenile narrowly avoided injury after picking one of the devices up. The device detonated seconds later in the front yard after being knocked from the juveniles grasp.

Upon completion of the post blast investigations, investigators were able to identify and interview 4 juvenile male suspects who were cooperative and ultimately provided written confessions of their involvement and were subsequently charged with two counts of Destructive Device Manufacture / Possession / Distribution and one count of Reckless Endangerment (each). The 5th juvenile suspect refused to cooperate and refused to answer all questions. He was also subsequently charged with the above listed charges. All 5 were released into the custody of their parents pending proceedings through the Department of Juvenile Services.

Destructive Device Manufacture / Possession / Distribution is a Felony which carries possible penalties up to 25 years imprisonment and / or $250,000.00 dollars in fines. Reckless Endangerment is a Misdemeanor which carries penalties up to 5 years imprisonment and / or $5,000.00 dollars in fines.

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The Office of the State Fire Marshal is an agency of the Department of State Police dedicated to helping protect citizens from fire and explosion through a comprehensive program of education, inspection, investigation and fire protection engineering. For more information on fire safety call 1-800-525-3124, log onto our website at: www.mdsp.org/firemarshal and/or http://facebook.com/MarylandStateFireMarshal.