

For Immediate Release
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Investigators Seek Tips in Wayne County Arson

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) — The Division of State Fire Marshal's Fire and Explosion Investigation Bureau is seeking tips from the public regarding a house explosion at 6743 Spruce Street in Sterling (Wayne County).

The explosion, which was reported shortly after 12:30 a.m. today, is being investigated as a racially motivated hate crime by the Wayne County Sheriff's office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Racial slurs were found painted on the garage and several vehicles parked next to the residence.

No one was home at the time of the incident. The home was being repaired as a result of an accidental fire on July 3.

The Sterling Fire District was first called to the residence on Tuesday after an unknown suspect(s) unsuccessfully attempted to ignite the home by filling it with natural gas and turning the stove burner on. The gas had then been disconnected. Electricity to the home had been disconnected since July 3.

A reward of up to \$5,000 is being offered by the [Blue Ribbon Arson Committee](#) for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the fire.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call the State Fire Marshal's tip line at **800-589-2728**.



*The scene of an explosion at
6743 Spruce Street in Sterling (Wayne County).*

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