



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Guilty Plea in Fire Incident Resulting from Drug Operation

Niagara Falls, ON, February 8, 2017 – Defendant Lowrie Sabourin has pled guilty to the charges of Produce Substance and Arson by negligence resulting from a fire at a property owned by the defendant.

On March 22, 2015 at approximately 7:30pm the Niagara Falls Fire Department received an emergency call that a garage was on fire at a property in the city's south end. Fire crews responded to the incident and upon arrival a detached garage was fully involved. After the fire was extinguished, crews noticed smoke coming from an adjacent transport trailer. Upon investigating the source of the smoke it was discovered that a possible criminal activity had occurred on the property and the scene was turned over to the jurisdiction of Niagara Regional Police. As a result of the incident a firefighter developed difficulties and had to be transported to hospital.

The sentence with Sabourin's guilty plea includes 15 months in jail followed by 18 months of probation and he must complete 150 hours of community service.

"Firefighters understand the risks involved with the important work they do in protecting their community" stated Fire Chief Jim Boutilier. "However, when individuals create situations either intentionally or through their own recklessness, and those actions increase the risk to first responder safety they must be held accountable and with this incident, the courts have" added Boutilier.

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For more information, contact:

Brian Dickson – Chief Fire Prevention Officer
Niagara Falls Fire Department
Phone: 905-356-1321 ext. 2208
Email: bdickson@niagarafalls.ca