

# Your Town

search  GO

[< Back to front page](#)

Text size

ALLSTON BRIGHTON

## Officials probing string of Allston arsons recommend locking car doors

Posted by Matt Rocheleau November 15, 2011 03:54 PM

[Print](#) | [Comments \(\)](#)

By **Matt Rocheleau**, Town Correspondent

City fire and police continue to investigate an alleged arson string that over the past three months has burned nine vehicles parked within about a quarter-mile radius section of an Allston residential area.

Boston Fire Department spokesman Steve MacDonald said today that residents, particularly those who live near where the car fires have been set -- at addresses along Pratt, Ashford, Wadsworth and Highgate streets -- are advised to keep outdoor home lights on when its dark outside and to keep car doors and windows shut and locked.

Most, if not all, of the vehicles that have been intentionally set on fire were unlocked at the time, MacDonald said. The fires have been started in a similar fashion "from the inside" of the vehicles, he said, declining to elaborate in further detail because of the ongoing investigation.

All of the cars were parked off of the street, either in driveways or backyard, he said. All of the fires have occurred in the morning and on weekends.

"It's an area heavily populated with college students so not everyone knows who their neighbor is," MacDonald said. "If you see something out of the ordinary, we ask that you report it."

The most recent vehicle arson occurred on the morning of Sunday, Nov. 6. [Boston Police said then](#) that witnesses at the scene told them they saw a suspect near the car shortly before it caught fire and leaving the area shortly after. The suspect was described as a white male, in his 20s, 5 feet 9 inches tall, medium built, brown hair, wearing a blue/gray ski cap, and a gray pea coat, according to police.

MacDonald said today regarding possible suspects, "we've had some different descriptions." but none have led to arrests.

He said investigators will not say whether anyone has been brought in for questioning related to the fires. No injuries have been reported in connection with the fires, though one car torching in August spread to and damaged a home on Ashford Street.

No car arsons were reported in Allston during October. On [the morning of Saturday, Sept. 24](#), five cars along Ashford and Pratt streets were damaged in three separate arson cases. Before then, three other cars had been lit on fire dating back to mid-August.

ADVERTISEMENT

### ALLSTON-BRIGHTON REAL ESTATE

**86**  
Homes for sale

**160**  
Rentals available

**6**  
Open houses this week

**0**  
New listings this week

ADVERTISEMENT



Waiting for Twitter to feed in the latest...

[Follow other Boston.com Tweets](#) | [What is Twitter?](#)

Anyone with information is asked to call fire investigators at 617-343-3324 or police detectives at 617-343-4256. Information can also be provided anonymously by calling the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1-800-494-TIPS, or by texting "TIP" to CRIME (27463).

*E-mail Matt Rocheleau at [mjrochele@gmail.com](mailto:mjrochele@gmail.com).*



---

[◀ Previous entry](#)

[Next entry ▶](#)