

Volunteer firefighter accused of Oyster Cove arson set to face Hobart Magistrates Court

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👤 PATRICK BILLINGS



Residential structure fire in Talosa Street, Glenorchy. Three two-man breathing-apparatus teams had been working on the house. Picture: MATHEW FARRELL fire truck / fire engine / hoses / water / smoke

UPDATED: Tasmania Fire Service chief Chris Arnol has released a statement in relation to a volunteer firefighter being charged with arson.

He said the TFS had today been informed a volunteer from the Dover Fire Brigade had been charged with a number of fire-related offences in the Channel area.

"It is not appropriate to comment further on the current charges as the matter is before the courts," Mr Arnol said in the statement.

"The firefighter is currently suspended from duty.

"This is a difficult and disappointing time for our firefighting community and we will provide every support possible to those brigade members affected.

"TFS is an organisation of more than 5000 dedicated volunteers and employees who represent a diverse cross section of our community and are committed to protecting life and property."

EARLIER: A VOLUNTEER firefighter has been charged with a spate of blazes causing more than \$330,000 damage in southern Tasmania.

The 30-year-old man from Oyster Cove was charged after a nine-month investigation.

The defendant has been suspended from his role as a volunteer with the Tasmania Fire Service.

He will face Hobart Magistrates Court later today on 13 counts of unlawfully setting fire to vegetation, two alleged arsons, and three counts of unlawfully setting fire to property.

The offences were allegedly committed between December and this month.

Police alleged they involved setting fire to a vacant property in Oyster Cove, which was completely destroyed by the blaze in February 2017 with damage valued at \$300,000.

It's alleged the man also torched a large storage shed in Sandfly this month, causing \$30,000 damage.

He also stands accused of unlawfully setting fire to a three-tonne CAT excavator at Blackmans Bay, a vehicle at Oyster Cove, and a power pole at Oyster Cove.

The 13 counts of unlawfully setting fire to vegetation relate to the Oyster Cove area.