

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



**THOMAS J. SPOTA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Arsonist gets 2 to 6 years

December 22, 2011

An East Hampton man guilty of starting a house fire and car fire was sentenced Wednesday to two to six years in prison by State Supreme Court Justice William Condon.

Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said because three volunteer firefighters, one of them the Town Fire Marshal, were injured battling the May 3, 2010 house fire that Christopher Ward started, the district attorney's office recommended a prison sentence of up to 12 years.

"Given the extent of the injuries, including serious burns to one of the firefighters, we believe a longer imprisonment was warranted."

The owner of the home gutted by the arson on Osborne Lane spoke at Ward's sentencing.

Ward pleaded guilty last month to three counts of felony assault (for causing the injuries to the firefighters) and two counts of third-degree arson. The second fire Ward admitted starting damaged a Porsche in October of 2010.



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Defendants are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

