

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE: November 6, 2015

TO: Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee:
Adam Medrano (Chair), B. Adam McGough (Vice Chair), Sandy Greyson, Tiffinni A. Young,
Jennifer S. Gates, Philip T. Kingston

SUBJECT: **Fire Investigation Division**

On Monday, November 9, 2015, the Public Safety Committee members will be briefed on the Fire Investigation Division. The materials are attached for your review.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric D. Campbell".

Eric D. Campbell
Assistant City Manager

Attachment

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager

Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council

FIRE INVESTIGATION DIVISION



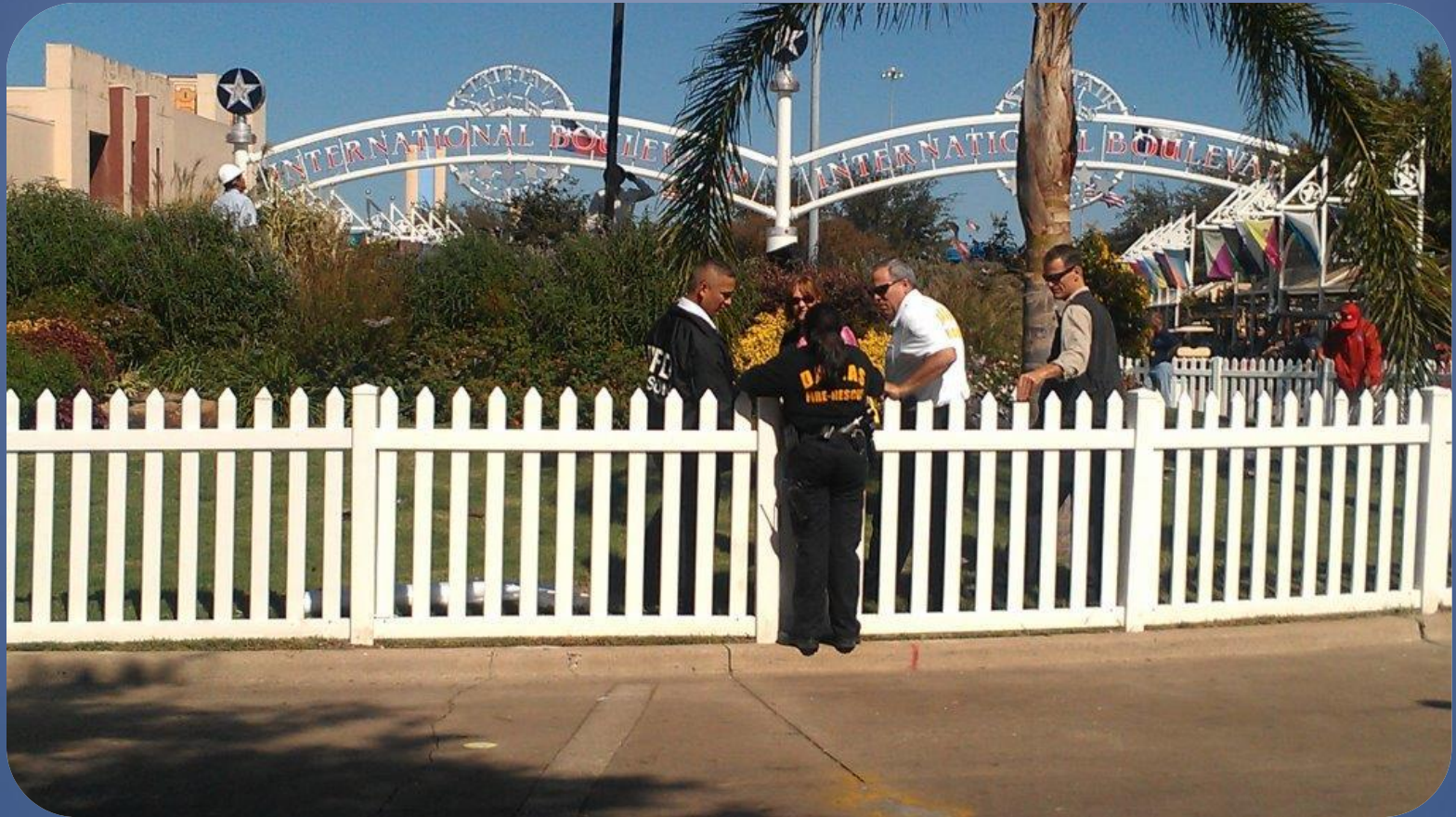
Public Safety Committee
November 9, 2015

Our Purpose



To determine the **Origin** and **Cause** of fires

Our Vision



Positively impact the crime rate and quality of
life in Dallas

Our Mission



- Reduce accidental fires through education and intervention



- Reduce incendiary fires through arrest and conviction

Our Values

- Compassion
- Integrity
- Dedication
- Effectiveness
- Customer Service



Arson Investigators

Investigates intentionally set or suspicious in nature fires.



Certified Peace Officers

Qualifications

- Basic Fire Inspection from Texas Commission on Fire Protection (minimum 196 hours)
- Basic Fire Investigator from Texas Commission on Fire Protection (minimum 150 tested hours and 27 skills tests)
- Peace Officer Certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (minimum 643 hours covering over 30 topics)

Arson Investigators



Components of Fire Investigation



Fire Investigation

Accidental Fires



Incendiary Fires



Accidental Fires



Operational Deficiency

Electrical Failure



Incendiary Fires

Deliberately setting a vehicle on fire for monetary purposes



Intentionally setting a fire on school property

TEXAS STATE LAW

Penal Code PC 28.02

- **Arson** - an offense if a person starts a fire, regardless of whether the fire continues after ignition, or causes an explosion with intent to destroy or damage:
 - Vegetation, fence, or structure on open-space land
 - Building
 - Habitation
 - Vehicle

TEXAS STATE LAW (cont.)

- Knowing that it is:
 - Within city limits
 - Insured
 - Subject to a mortgage
 - On or within property of another
 - Reckless and endangers an individual or property of another

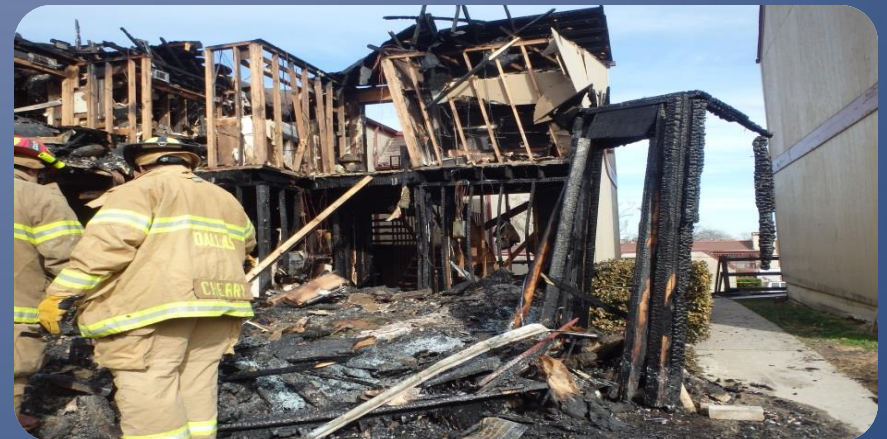
Arson Crime

Criminal Punishments

- Arson:
 - Second Degree Felony - Texas Department of Corrections (TDC) 2 to 20 years and up to \$10,000 fine
- Arson with bodily injury, death or arson of a habitation or place of assembly or worship:
 - First Degree Felony – (TDC) 5 to 99 years or life and up to \$10,000 fine
- Criminal Mischief:
 - Class and fine is contingent on the amount of pecuniary loss

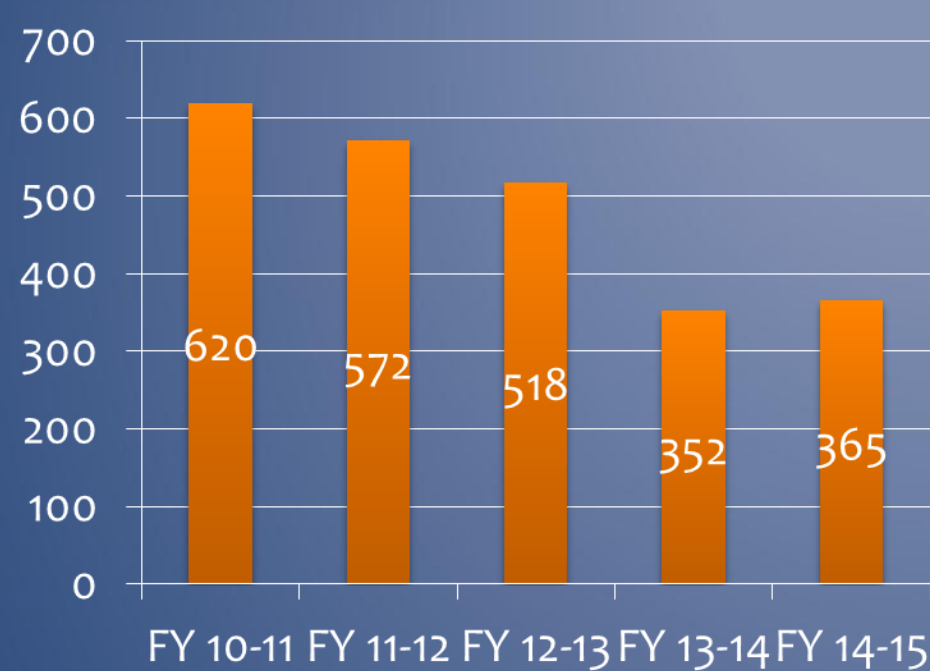
Reasons Behind Arson

- For Profit
- Revenge
- Crime concealment
- Psychological compulsion
- Mass Civil Disturbance (Riot)
- Terrorism
- Gang initiations
- Thrill seekers and dares

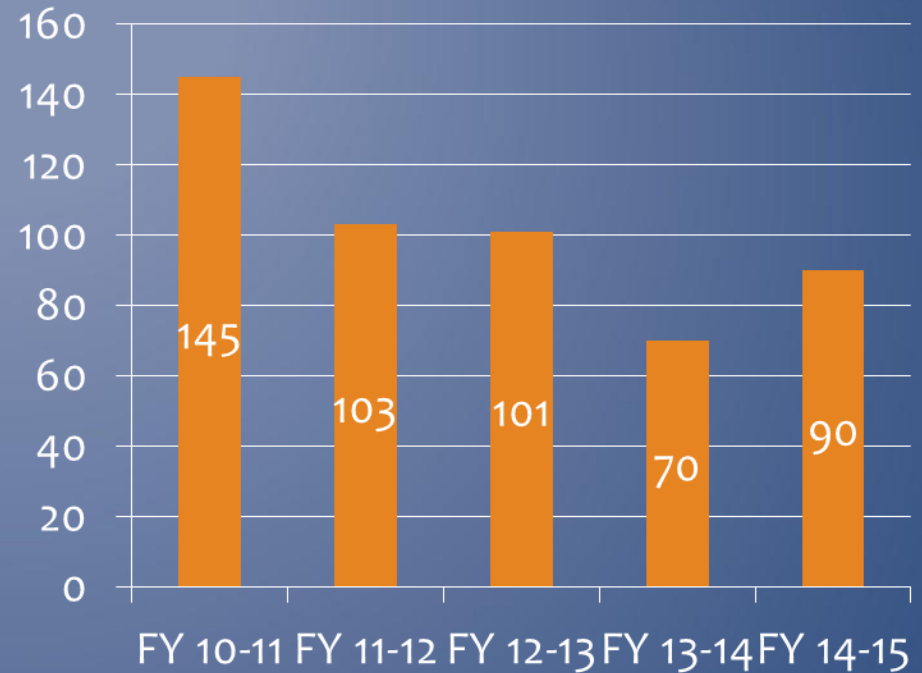


2010-2015 Arson Statistics

Total Arson Incidents



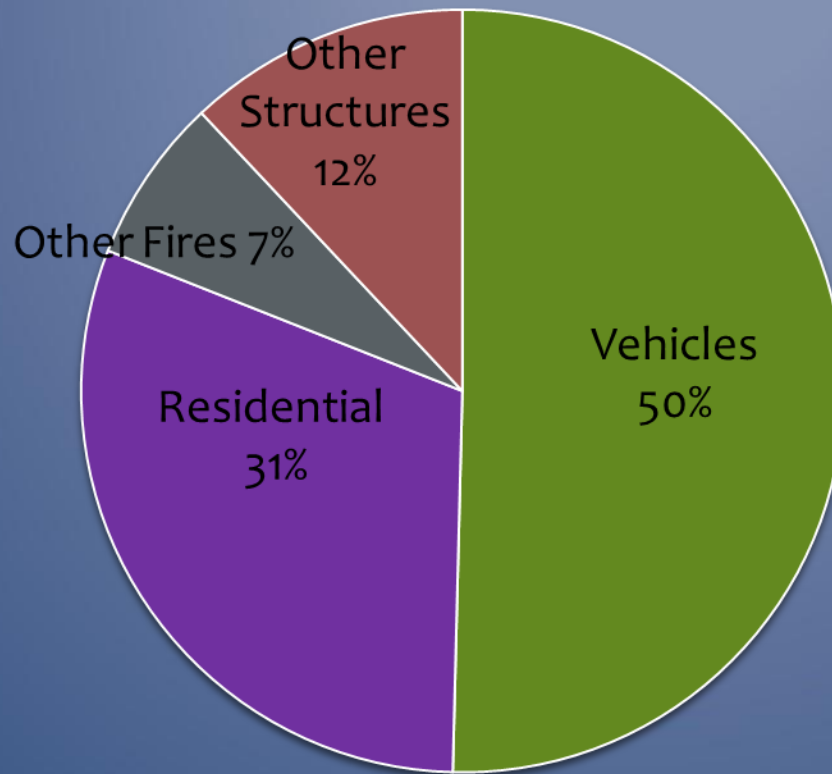
Total Arson Arrests



What does Arson look like?



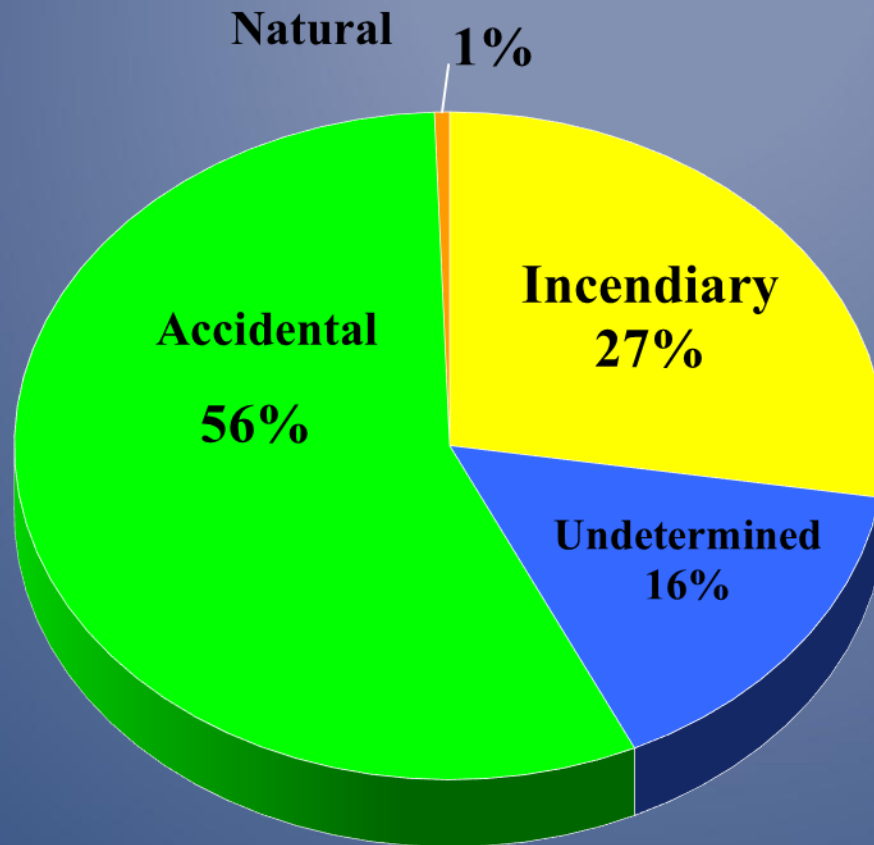
Incendiary Fires FY 2014-2015



373 Investigations

Cause of Fires in Dallas

FY 2014-2015



1396 Fire
Investigations

Cause Determination

- Witnesses
- Insurance
- Financial History
- Previous Fire History
- Criminal Background



Interviews



It is essential for the investigators to interview the fire fighters and witnesses immediately following a fire incident.





What are we doing about Arson?

- Arson Awareness/Prevention Program
 - Utilizing the “Crime Stoppers Program”
 - Canvassing neighborhoods for tips
 - Arresting arsonists
 - Assist the Public Information Officer for timely press releases
 - Intervention with Juvenile Fire Setters

QUESTIONS?