

**Arson
Burns
Us All!**

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Selected Bibliography

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This list of selected literature was prepared from a scan of the documentation data base to acquaint the reader with the information on arson available at the National Criminal Justice Reference Service. Brief abstracts and pertinent bibliographic information are provided for each of the documents listed. The entries are arranged alphabetically by title, and an NCJRS accession number is given for reference. The documents are available at NCJRS on a reference basis.

ABC's of Police Science (ABC De Police Scientifique) (NCJ 14892)
Gayet, J. — 1973, 269 pages

This manual treats the practical problems confronted by criminal investigators in gathering and analyzing physical evidence. Methods of personal identification are described, including fingerprints, palm prints, footprints, and other human traces. Also covered are toolmark-identification, trace evidence, and the examination of suspected vehicles. The section on firearms treats ballistics, firearms identification, and bullet hole identification. The text features a review of devices and materials related to fires and explosions. Both illicit and accidental circumstances are discussed, as well as procedures for investigating them. Drawings and photographs are used throughout the text to illustrate investigating problems (in French).

Payot; 106 Boulevard Saint-Germain; Paris, France

Arson — A Handbook of Detection and Investigation (NCJ 13413)
Battle, B. P. and Weston, P. B. — 1954, 302 pages

Fire-setting techniques, motives for arson, and guidelines for its detection and investigation are the main topics of this handbook. The authors begin with a discussion of suspicious fires and tell-tale signs of arson. Commonly employed fire setting techniques are explored. The various motives for arson are analyzed in turn and include arson for profit, anger, revenge, and mental deficiency, in the case of pyromania. The relationship between arson and other crimes is examined as well as the operation of arson rings or groups of criminal fire setters. Methods for investigating cases of suspected arson are detailed and include crime scene search, interview and interrogation, use of evidence, and preparation of the court case. A glossary of terms commonly used by firemen is provided along with a sample interrogation and interview form.

Arco Publishing Company; 219 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10003

Arson — A Twenty-Year Cohort Study — Medicine, Science, and the Law, V 13, N 2 (April 1973) (NCJ 10515)
Soothill, K. L. and Pope, P. J., 12 pages

In order to determine the rate of recidivism, this 20-year follow-up was made of 82 individuals who were brought before the higher courts of England and Wales in 1951 charged

with arson. Of the 67 people convicted of arson, only three were reconvicted for the same crime by the end of 1971, and 32 were not subsequently reconvicted for a standard-list offense by the end of 1971. The study emphasized that the vast majority of those convicted of arson are not reconvicted for that offense again.

John Wright and Sons, Ltd.; 42-44 Triangle West; Bristol, England BS8 1EX

Arson Increasing Faster Than Most Other Crimes — State Police Officers Journal, V 11, N 32 (January-February 1974), (NCJ 13335), 1 page

This is an outline of the results of a study dealing with acts of physical violence against fire departments, bomb threats and incidents, arson, and false alarms. One of the main conclusions of the report was that increased interservice coordination between police and fire departments should be encouraged in order to combat all of the above problems.

State Peace Officers Journal; P. O. Box 13155; Houston, Texas 77019

Arson Investigation and the Collecting of Evidence — Security World, V 11, N 3 (March 1974), (NCJ 13323)
Hurteau, W. K., 4 pages

This article supplies information on procedures and needs of security personnel for uncovering crimes of arson. Detailed lists of physical and reference supplies needed for collection and maintenance of evidence in cases of suspected arson are provided, and procedures for tagging and storing evidence are discussed.

Security World Publishing Co., Inc.; 2639 S. La Cienega Blvd.; Los Angeles, California 90034

Arson — The Most Neglected Crime on Earth — Police Chief, V 41, N 7 (July 1974) (NCJ 14437)
May, R. E., 2 pages

This article states that although large losses are caused by fires, there are not sufficient numbers of adequately trained investigators to determine their true cause. The author notes that a survey of state and local jurisdictions conducted by the Arson Committee of the International Association of

Chiefs of Police indicates that very few police or fire departments train personnel in arson investigation. He notes that historically, police and fire departments have not cooperated in assigning investigative responsibilities and that the average loss per fire can equal or exceed the average loss per crime.

International Association of Chiefs of Police; 11 Firstfield Road; Gaithersburg, Maryland 20761

Arson, Vandalism and Violence — Law Enforcement Problems Affecting Fire Departments (NCJ 11547)
Moll, K. D. — 1972, 190 pages

This study is based on a comprehensive statistical data base of metropolitan fire department problems related to violence. The data covering the period 1968 through 1971 was gathered by the use of questionnaires, field visits, and a review of relevant literature. The following six major areas of violence are covered: building fires attributed to arson and suspected arson, false alarms, acts of physical violence against fire departments during riots and civil disorders, isolated acts of harassment directed against fire department personnel, equipment and facilities, bomb threats, and bomb incidents. The author has indicated that the intention of the study was not to suggest general changes in the criminal justice system, but rather to find specific need for changes in local, state, or federal government programs dealing with problems of violence affecting fire departments. Therefore, the study dealt specifically with each of the areas of violent behavior, attempting to identify the major contributions to the problem, extent of the problem, and possible avenues for alleviation of the effects of violent behavior on fire departments. Mr. Moll concludes that, except for arson, violence is not presently an unmanageable burden to fire departments. Although he finds that fire departments have been relatively successful in adapting their internal operations to violence problems, he strongly suggests that greater interservice cooperation with the police is needed. Government officials who oversee both police and fire functions are urged to promote this cooperation.

Stanford Research Institute; 333 Ravenswood Avenue; Menlo Park, California 94025

Campus Crimes and Security — Report Panel Discussion (NCJ 10151)
1973, 35 pages

The changing campus crime scene, law enforcement cooperation, bombings, vandalism, arson, and security on a developing campus are discussed as are the contract agency and campus security.

Burns Security Institute; Briarcliff Manor; New York, New York 10510

Criminal Investigation (NCJ 12096)
Horgan, J. J. — 1974, 411 pages

The text of this document encompasses guidelines and requisites for all phases of investigative operations and examines specific offenses and related investigative techniques. The document focuses on preliminary investigations; the collection, identification, and preservation of evidence; and methods of criminal activity. Information is provided on fingerprint patterns, the investigative skills of surveillance and stake-outs, reference services that aid effective investigation, and police reports — a principal source of information for case disposition. Subsequent sections examine investigative techniques used for the following offenses: auto and motorcycle theft, burglary, robbery, receiving stolen property, fraudulent check writing, assault, sex crimes, and narcotics and dangerous drug use. Attention also is given to death investigations and arson and bomb investigation. In addition to well organized documentation, photographs and sketches are provided on crime scenes, fingerprints, and crime-related paraphernalia. Sample police forms and reports, individual glossaries dealing with specialized medical terminology, words used to identify deviant forms of sexual behavior, and narcotic and dangerous drug slang are found throughout the text. This volume also contains tables indicating physical symptoms and dangers of certain drugs and weights and measures used in illegal drug traffic. Appropriate court cases and statutes are cited.

McGraw-Hill; 1221 Avenue of the Americas; New York, New York 10020

Criminal Investigation — A Practical Textbook for Magistrates, Police Officers and Lawyers. 5th Ed. (NCJ 10726)
Gross, H. and Jackson, R. L. — 1962, 448 pages

Various aspects of investigative procedure and techniques from evidence identification to witness interrogation is pre-

sented in this document. Individual chapters deal with such topics as the scientific expert and the investigator, criminal practices and expressions, and construction and use of weapons. Additional material covers footprints and other impressions, theft, fraud, and arson.

Sweet and Maxwell; 11 New Fetter Lane; London, England

Criminal Law and Court Procedures (NCJ 13401)
Hutnick, M. B. — 1974, 173 pages

This practical approach to legal theory, criminal law, and court procedures is to be used as an initial study of criminal law and court procedures by the student of law enforcement. The author introduces the fundamentals of criminal law, the criminal act, and the intent requisite for criminal responsibility. Specific criminal offenses described and discussed include arson, assault, battery, burglary, homicide, robbery, theft, sex offenses, and perjury. Court procedures are presented from the arraignment and pretrial bail process through post-conviction remedies, probation, and parole. Review questions follow each chapter.

Delmar Publishers; Mountainview Avenue; Albany, New York 12205

Criminal Investigation and Interrogation — 1972 Rev. Ed. with 1972 Appendix of Supplemental Material (NCJ 12314)
Gerber, S. R. and Schroeder, O. Jr. — 1972, 619 pages

This is a series of edited lectures dealing with scientific aids to investigation, surveillance, observation and description, interrogation, and investigation of specific crimes. Emphasizing criminal investigation in England, the volume discusses burglary, robbery, arson, homicide, and shopbreaking. The work is illustrated by case studies and photographs, and includes an appendix of supplemental material. This appendix examines motor vehicle investigation, vehicle identification numbers, safe burglaries, firearms, check fraud, handwriting, document investigation, and voiceprints.

W. H. Anderson Company; 646 Main Street; Cincinnati, Ohio 45201

Fire as a Symbol and as a Weapon of Death — Medicine, Science,

and the Law, V 13, N 2 (April 1973) (NCJ 10514)
Topp, D. O., 8 pages

A historical overview of the religious significance of fire with a discussion of its use today as a form of mob violence, personal or perverted vengeance, or protest comprise this article. Included are recent events involving fire in English penal institutions. From statistics on arson and suicide by fire, the author concludes that the symbolic regard and use of fire are largely reserved by certain delinquents as an aggressive weapon to be directed against others rather than against themselves. The callousness of premeditated suicide by fire appears to remain the prerogative of those idealistic detached personalities, or those with mental disease, involving some separation of feeling from consciousness.

John Wright and Sons, Ltd.; 42-44 Triangle West; Bristol,
England BS8 1EX

Fire Investigation — Including Fire-Related Phenomena — Arson,
Explosion, Asphyxiation (NCJ 10845)
Kirk, P. L. — 1969, 255 pages

This document covers elementary technical considerations of the combustion process of fuels, and the investigative techniques utilized in examining cases of suspected arson. Fire investigation begins with an examination of the elementary chemistry of combustion and the nature and behavior of fire. The combustion properties of solid and non-solid fuels are defined. Fire patterns of structural and outdoor fires are delineated with special attention given to automobile, boat, clothing, and fabric fires. Practical guidelines for the investigation of structural fires are given. Specific factors related to the investigation and legal aspects of arson are considered. Also included are discussions of explosions associated with fires and building construction materials. The appendix includes illustrations of fire experimentation and fire origins.

John Wiley and Sons; 605 Third Avenue; New York, New
York 10016

School Fires — Part of Our Overall Crime Problem — Security
World, V 11, N 3 (March 1974) (NCJ 13324)
Strom, M., 4 pages

Presented in this article is a statistical analysis of school
fires and a discussion of losses in terms of dollars and in-

convenience to students. Following a discussion of school fire statistics, which reveal an increase in incendiary fires over the past five years, the author focuses on the burden of such incidences on the tax payer. Comments are made on equipment, such as automatic sprinkler systems that should be maintained in schools, and on particular cases of school fires in the Washington, D. C. area.

Security World Publishing Company; 2639 S. La Cienega Blvd.; Los Angeles, California 90034

Study of Accelerant Residues in Fire Remains (NCJ 00334)
Ettling, B. V. and Adams, M. F. — 1968, 14 pages

This document is the result of a study to determine amounts and kinds of hydrocarbons extracted from charred materials. A variety of wood, textiles, and paper were subjected to burning tests in common accelerants, such as gasoline, fuel oil, kerosene, or various proprietary products using hydrocarbons as a carrier or solvent. A comprehensive table on the analysis of materials and their chars is included in the report. The typical chromatograms are exhibited for vapors from wood burned with fuel oil, residue from fabric burned with no accelerant, residue from wood burned with gasoline, and residue from wood burned with fuel oil. Laboratory experiments show relation of disappearance of accelerant with duration of burning. Tables are given on the results of cotton burned with gasoline by vapor analysis and char analysis. The report concludes that the most important finding was that the amount of hydrocarbons in the char does not necessarily indicate added accelerant. Gas chromatography is the best means to characterize accelerant residues of vapors from char.

Washington State University; Pullman, Washington 99163