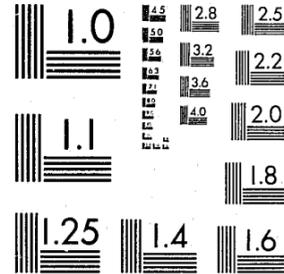


National Criminal Justice Reference Service



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National Institute of Justice
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20531

Date Filmed

3/03/81

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Department of the Treasury
Annual Report by the
Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms





NCJRS

NOV 5 1980

ACQUISITION

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Director Dickerson

"Cleveland Man Killed in Bomb Blast";---
"Bombs Set Off by Remote Control";---
"Bomber Dies in Blast";--- "Murder
Accomplished by Sophisticated Mercury-
Activated Bomb." These are but a few
of the headlines that appeared in our
Nation's newspapers in 1979.

This 1979 Explosives Incident Report has
been prepared by the Bureau of Alcohol,
Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) in an attempt
to provide meaningful information to those
public safety agencies charged with the
protection of persons and property from
the "grim statistics" generated from
explosives related incidents.

The wanton disregard for human suffering
and the malicious destruction of public
and private property through the misuse
of explosives are major concerns of
all law enforcement agencies. Thus,
ATF continues to focus on the perpetrators
of these devastating crimes by devoting
priority attention to explosives incidents,
both independently and in conjunction
with State and local authorities.
Recently, we have expanded our national
response capabilities through the
implementation of four (4) Regional
Teams of investigators, laboratory and
technical personnel, located in the
Northeast, Southeast, Midwest and
Western sections of the country. Hence,
we may provide a more expeditious response
to major bombing/arson incidents occurring
throughout the United States.

Consistent with our enforcement commitments,
ATF has embarked upon a program to combat
major "arson-for-profit" schemes, a crime
now recognized as one of the nation's most
costly and damaging criminal activities.
For the first time since its initial
publication, a special section of the
report has been devoted to arsons. This
arson section specifically reflects
ATF's involvement in the fight against
arson crimes.

The continuing battle against organized
crime/white collar criminals, and others
who perpetrate explosives related crimes
is a shared responsibility. Explosives/
incendiary bombing incidents in our
country today present a demanding challenge
to the law enforcement community. It is
only through individual and collective
efforts at all levels of government
that we can effectively achieve our common
objectives in pursuit of these criminal
violators.

The data reflected in this report is a
result of information that has been
reported to ATF by our field offices
and other law enforcement agencies, and
therefore, is not purported to represent
the totality of explosives incidents
that may have occurred during 1979.

We would like to take this opportunity
to express our appreciation to all of
those who contributed the information
that made the publication of this report
possible.

A. R. Dickerson
Director

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACCELERANT - A chemical substance used to initiate or promote a fire. Flammable liquids are the most common types of accelerants.

ACCIDENTAL EXPLOSION - Unintentional detonation/ignition of explosive or suspected explosive materials not associated with criminal activity. Generally relates to some type of industrial or commercial activity.

ARSON - The deliberate damage/destruction of property involved in or affecting interstate commerce through the use of an incendiary device, destructive device, or "explosive" that falls within the purview of ATF's statutory jurisdiction. Generally relates to a "profit motivated" crime directed toward commercial/industrial activities. Includes only those incidents investigated by ATF.

ATTEMPTED BOMBING (Failure to Detonate) - An unsuccessful attempt to commit a bombing with high or low order explosives or blasting agents, due to the malfunction, recovery or disarmament of an explosive device.

ATTEMPTED INCENDIARY BOMBING (Failure to Ignite) - An unsuccessful attempt to commit an incendiary bombing due to the malfunction, recovery or disarmament of the device.

BLASTING AGENTS - Any material or mixture, consisting of fuel and oxidizer, intended for blasting, not otherwise defined as an explosive (e.g., ammonium nitrate and fuel oil); provided that the finished product, as mixed, cannot be detonated by a numbered 8 test blasting cap when unconfined. For the purpose of this report, blasting agents are placed in a separate category, rather than being defined as a high or low explosive.

BOMBING (Detonation) - A criminally perpetrated bombing incident utilizing high or low order explosives or blasting agents, including the premature detonation of a device during the illegal preparation, transportation or placement of the explosives.

CONTAINER - Type of article/material/substance in which explosive/incendiary/chemical elements are placed for the purpose of constituting a device (e.g., pipe, box, bottle, dynamite wrapper, etc.).

EXPLOSIVES INCIDENT - Any explosive related situation investigated by or reported to ATF.

FILLER - Type of explosive/incendiary/chemical material or substance placed inside an identified container for the purpose of constituting a device (e.g., dynamite, match heads, gasoline, etc.).

HOAX DEVICE - An inactive or "dummy" device designed as a bomb (or any item portrayed as an explosive) to deceive, threaten or intimidate a victim.

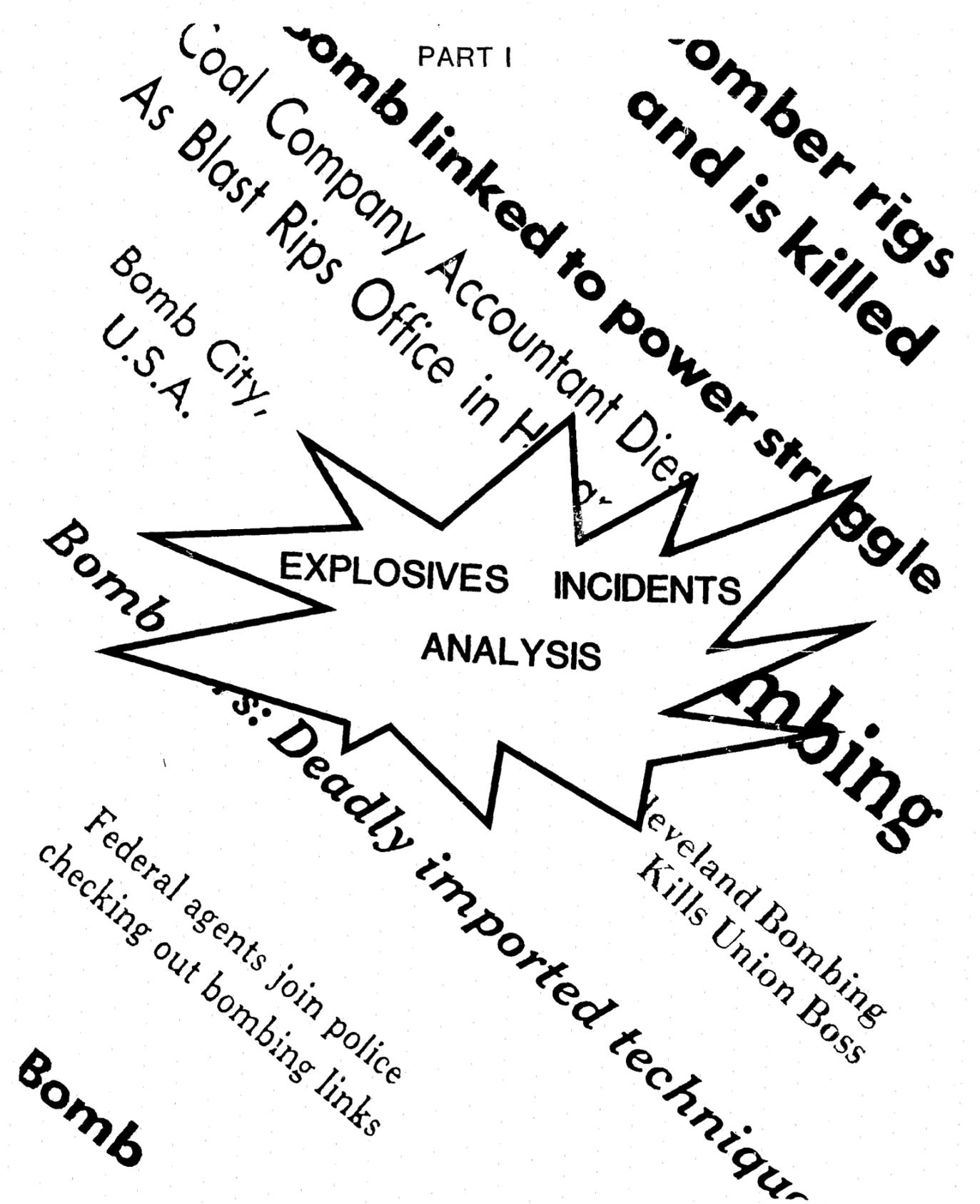
INCENDIARY BOMBING (Ignited) - A criminally perpetrated bombing incident utilizing an incendiary/chemical device that induces a burning effect (e.g., Molotov cocktail). [Note: Arson motivated crimes may involve the use of "incendiary bombs," but such arson incidents are not included under this category.]

PROPERTY DAMAGE - Damages resulting from explosives/incendiary incidents listed herein are based upon estimates that are generally reported during the preliminary stages of the investigation and do not reflect the totality of property loss that might have occurred. Furthermore, in some instances, no reports of property damage are submitted.

RECOVERED EXPLOSIVES - All seized, abandoned and purchased (undercover) explosive materials recovered by ATF or other law enforcement agencies.

STOLEN EXPLOSIVES - Explosive materials, including detonating cord/safety fuse and blasting caps, reported to be stolen.

THREATS - The intimidation of persons or property through the implied use of explosive materials, directed toward U.S. Treasury buildings or facilities.



HIGHLIGHTS

During 1979, there were 3,092 explosives related incidents reported to ATF. This represents a 5 percent decrease from the 3,256 incidents reported in 1978.

In 1979, there were 54 fatalities and 328 injuries resulting from explosives related incidents, which represent a 21.7 percent decrease in the number of deaths and a 53.6 percent decrease in the number of injuries, when compared with the 69 fatalities and 707 injuries reported in 1978.

The total number of criminal bombings reported in 1979 dropped to 1,469, a decrease of 16.8 percent, as compared with the 1,767 bombings reported in 1978. Within this category, bombings perpetrated by explosive devices declined by 13.6 percent, and bombings perpetrated by incendiary devices decreased by 24.5 percent.

Accidental explosions decreased by 15.5 percent, from 71 incidents in 1978 to 60 incidents in 1979.

The identified motives and targets for 1979 bombings remained consistent with the information reported in 1978. Vandalism and revenge continued to be identified as primary motives, while residential and commercial properties continued to be primary targets of the criminal violator.

TABLE 1

TYPES OF EXPLOSIVES INCIDENTS
BY NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE
FOR 1978 - 1979

TYPE OF INCIDENT	1978		1979	
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Bombings	963	29.6%	901	29%
Attempted Bombings	287	8.8%	178	6%
Incendiary Bombings	446	13.7%	346	11.2%
Attempted Incendiary Bombings	71	2.2%	44	1%
Stolen Explosives	362	11.1%	335	11%
Recovered Explosives	987	30.3%	1,167	38%
Threats (Treasury Facilities)	22	.7%	35	1%
Hoax Devices	47	1.4%	26	.9%
Accident-Noncriminal	71	2.2%	60	1.9%
TOTAL	3,256	100%	3,092	100%

<u>TOTAL KILLED</u>		<u>TOTAL INJURED</u>	<u>ESTIMATED PROPERTY DAMAGE</u>
1978	69	707	\$27,500,000
1979	54	328	\$16,000,000

TABLE 2

TOTAL CRIMINAL BOMBING INCIDENTS DEFINED
AS EITHER EXPLOSIVE OR INCENDIARY
FOR 1978 - 1979

EXPLOSIVES INCIDENTS/ ¹	1978		1979	
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Bombings	963	77%	901	83.5%
Attempted Bombings	287	23%	178	16.5%
TOTAL	1,250	100%	1,079	100%

INCENDIARY INCIDENTS/ ²	1978		1979	
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Incendiary Bombings	446	86.3%	346	89%
Attempted Incendiary Bombings	71	13.7%	44	11%
TOTAL	517	100%	390	100%

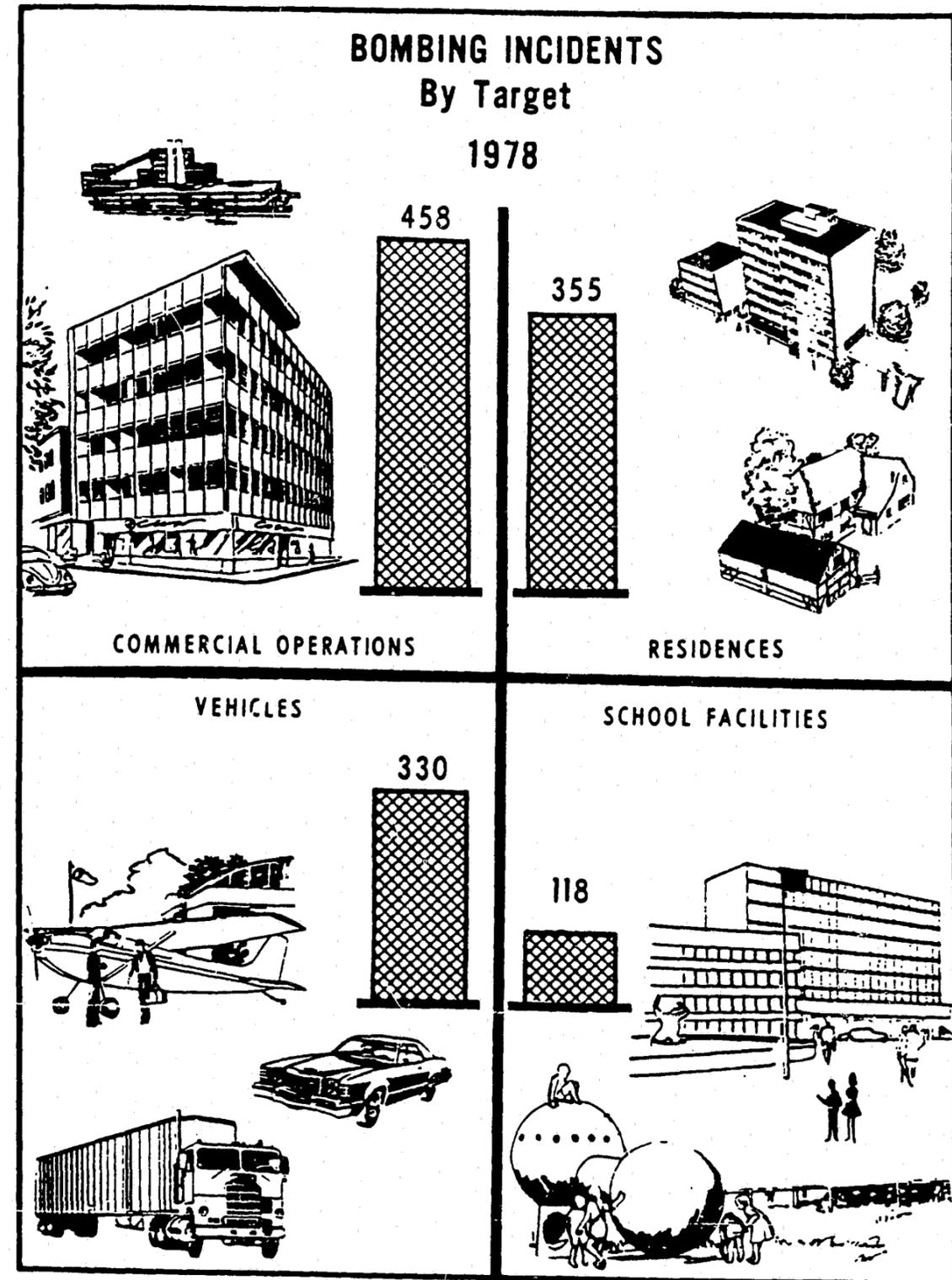
TOTAL BOMBING INCIDENTS: 1,767 1,469

1. Explosive devices consisted of an explosive filler and firing/fuse mechanism.
2. Incendiary devices contained flammable liquid or chemicals and ignitor.

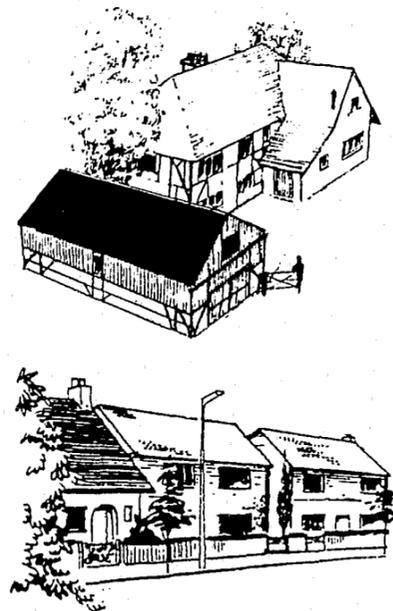
TABLE 3
1978 BOMBING INCIDENTS BY TARGET

RANK	TARGET	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
1.	Commercial	458	25.9%
2.	Residential	355	20.1%
3.	Vehicles	330	18.7%
4.	Educational	118	6.7%
5.	Mail Boxes	79	4.5%
6.	Utilities	69	3.9%
7.	Open Areas	65	3.7%
8.	Police Facilities/Vehicles	34	1.9%
9.	Government (Federal)	27	1.5%
10.	Banks	21	1.2%
11.	Government (State-local)	14	.7%
12.	Airports/Aircraft	7	.3%
13.	Military Installations	4	.2%
	Other/ ¹	184	10.4%
	Unknown/ ²	2	---
TOTAL		1,767	99.7%/ ³

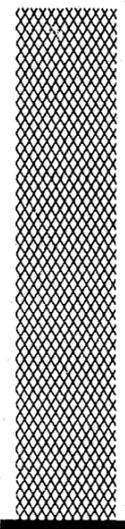
1. This category includes those incidents which could not be placed in one of the categories provided above.
2. These are the number of incidents where the report received did not reflect the type of target attacked.
3. The percentage total does not include the two unknown incidents where the targets were not reported. Percentages do not total 100 percent due to rounding.



**BOMBING INCIDENTS
BY TARGET
1979**



327



RESIDENCES

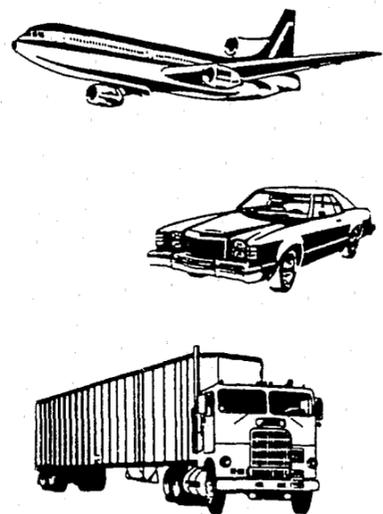


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**COMMERCIAL
OPERATIONS**

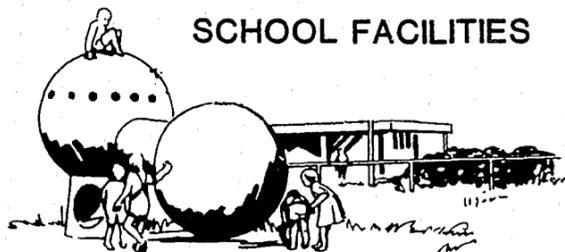
VEHICLES



254



SCHOOL FACILITIES



123

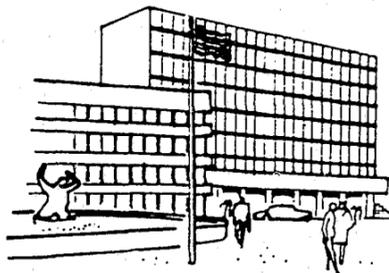


TABLE 4
1979 BOMBING INCIDENTS BY TARGET

RANK	TARGET	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
1.	Residential	327	22.3%
2.	Commercial	317	21.7%
3.	Vehicles	254	17.3%
4.	Education	123	8.4%
5.	Mail Boxes	100	6.8%
6.	Open Areas	66	4.5%
7.	Utilities	42	2.9%
8.	Police Facilities/Vehicles	29	1.9%
9.	Government (Federal)	23	1.6%
10.	Government (State-local)	15	1.0%
11.	Banks	15	1.0%
12.	Military	7	.5%
13.	Airports/Aircraft	4	.3%
	Other/ ¹	142	9.7%
	Unknown/ ²	5	
TOTAL		1,469	99.9% / ³

1. This category includes those incidents which could not be placed in one of the categories provided above.
2. These are the number of incidents where the report received did not reflect the type of target attacked.
3. The percentage total does not include the five unknown incidents where the targets were not reported. Percentages do not total 100 percent due to rounding.

TABLE 5
EXPLOSIVE INCIDENTS
BY STATE FOR 1978 - 1979

STATE	BOMBINGS/ ¹		INCENDIARIES/ ²		OTHER/ ³		TOTAL INCIDENTS	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
Alabama	21	9	20	9	60	50	101	67
Alaska	9	4	3	0	9	5	21	9
Arizona	14	9	18	5	17	7	49	21
Arkansas	11	7	1	2	22	29	34	38
California	161	133	132	132	77	35	370	300
Colorado	37	20	22	16	51	29	110	65
Connecticut	16	9	9	1	6	19	31	29
Delaware	0	1	0	0	8	4	8	5
District of Columbia	10	2	3	0	2	4	15	6
Florida	23	36	9	18	32	18	64	72
Georgia	14	17	13	6	49	76	76	99
Hawaii	0	3	0	1	4	6	4	10
Idaho	6	6	2	2	10	10	18	18
Illinois	74	85	16	16	57	76	147	177
Indiana	25	24	6	4	21	24	52	52
Iowa	4	8	2	3	11	8	17	19
Kansas	6	4	1	2	22	11	29	17
Kentucky	90	29	9	7	101	142	200	178

1. Bombing incidents include: Bombings and Attempted Bombings.
2. Incendiary incidents include: Actual and Attempted Incendiary Bombings.
3. Other incidents include: Accidental, Hoax, Threat, Recovered, and Stolen Explosives.

TABLE 5
(Continued)

STATE	BOMBINGS/ ¹		INCENDIARIES/ ²		OTHER/ ³		TOTAL INCIDENTS	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1978	1978	1979
Louisiana	6	10	3	0	29	21	38	31
Maine	1	0	0	0	3	3	4	3
Maryland	25	19	15	8	17	8	57	35
Massachusetts	18	19	27	7	18	14	63	40
Michigan	29	31	5	5	24	14	58	50
Minnesota	12	21	0	5	8	20	20	46
Mississippi	5	6	3	3	13	26	21	35
Missouri	32	38	26	23	38	69	96	130
Montana	1	10	1	2	1	2	3	14
Nebraska	3	6	1	0	8	3	12	9
Nevada	3	5	0	2	8	10	11	17
New Hampshire	1	1	0	0	1	3	2	4
New Jersey	31	29	10	4	23	28	64	61
New Mexico	11	12	0	1	23	15	34	28
New York	115	54	35	11	42	45	192	110
North Carolina	19	18	3	4	64	94	86	116
North Dakota	1	3	0	0	1	15	2	18
Ohio	83	71	29	27	56	80	168	178
Oklahoma	9	21	11	3	50	51	70	75
Oregon	23	20	5	3	31	9	59	32

TABLE 5
(Continued)

STATE	BOMBINGS/ ¹		INCENDIARIES/ ²		OTHER/ ³		TOTAL INCIDENTS	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
Pennsylvania	38	14	8	0	56	47	102	61
Rhode Island	4	3	2	0	3	0	9	3
South Carolina	6	9	2	6	42	56	50	71
South Dakota	1	3	0	0	9	5	10	8
Tennessee	32	55	11	5	61	55	104	115
Texas	49	34	22	30	78	113	149	177
Utah	19	9	7	2	19	12	45	23
Vermont	2	1	1	0	1	4	4	5
Virginia	38	49	8	2	62	59	108	110
Washington	21	32	2	2	27	36	50	70
West Virginia	17	24	6	9	82	114	105	147
Wisconsin	21	18	1	0	13	14	35	32
Wyoming	6	0	1	0	14	18	21	18
Guam	0	0	0	0	2	6	2	6
Puerto Rico	47	27	6	2	3	2	56	31
Virgin Islands	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	1,250	1,079	517	390	1,489	1,624	3,256	3,092

TABLE 6
BOMBING INCIDENTS RANKED
BY STATE FOR 1978 - 1979/¹

RANK	1978		RANK	1979	
	STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS		STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS
1.	California	161	1.	California	133
2.	New York	115	2.	Illinois	85
3.	Kentucky	90	3.	Ohio	71
4.	Ohio	83	4.	Tennessee	55
5.	Illinois	74	5.	New York	54
6.	Texas	49	6.	Virginia	49
7.	Puerto Rico	47	7.	Missouri	38
8.	Pennsylvania	38	8.	Florida	36
	Virginia	38	9.	Texas	34
9.	Colorado	37	10.	Washington	32
10.	Missouri	32			
	Tennessee	32			

1. Bombing incidents include: Bombings and Attempted Bombings.

FIGURE 1
BOMBING INCIDENTS
(GEOGRAPHIC AREA)
1979

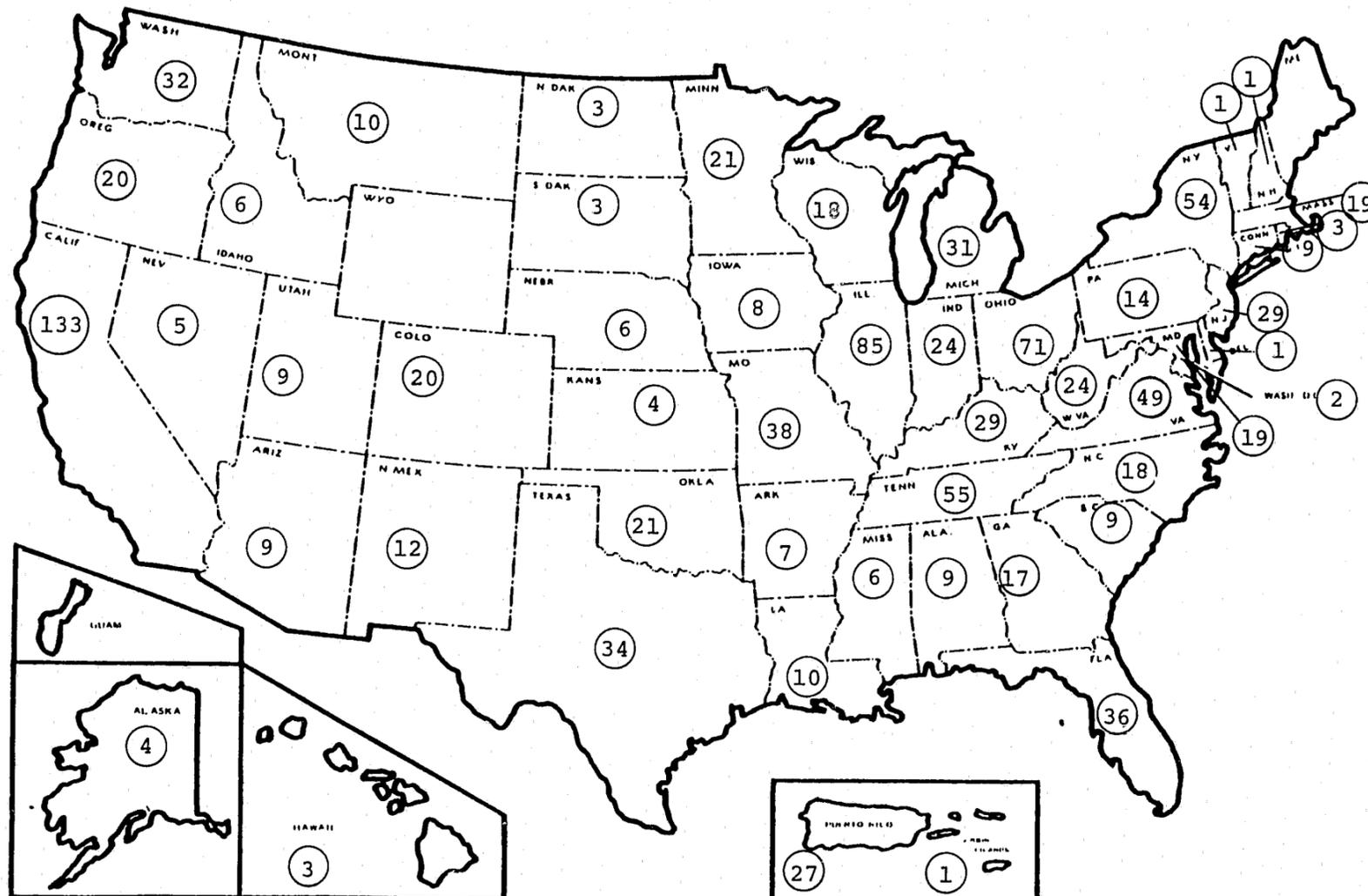


TABLE 7
 INCENDIARY INCIDENTS
 RANKED BY STATE FOR 1978 - 1979/ 1

1978			1979		
RANK	STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	RANK	STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS
1.	California	132	1.	California	132
2.	New York	35	2.	Texas	30
3.	Ohio	29	3.	Ohio	27
4.	Massachusetts	27	4.	Missouri	23
5.	Missouri	26	5.	Florida	18
6.	Colorado	22	6.	Colorado	16
	Texas	22		Illinois	16
7.	Alabama	20	7.	New York	11
8.	Arizona	18	8.	Alabama	9
9.	Illinois	16		West Virginia	9
10.	Maryland	15	9.	Maryland	8
			10.	Kentucky	7
				Massachusetts	7

1. Incendiary incidents include: Actual and Attempted Incendiary Bombings.

FIGURE 2
INCENDIARY INCIDENTS
(GEOGRAPHIC AREA)
1979

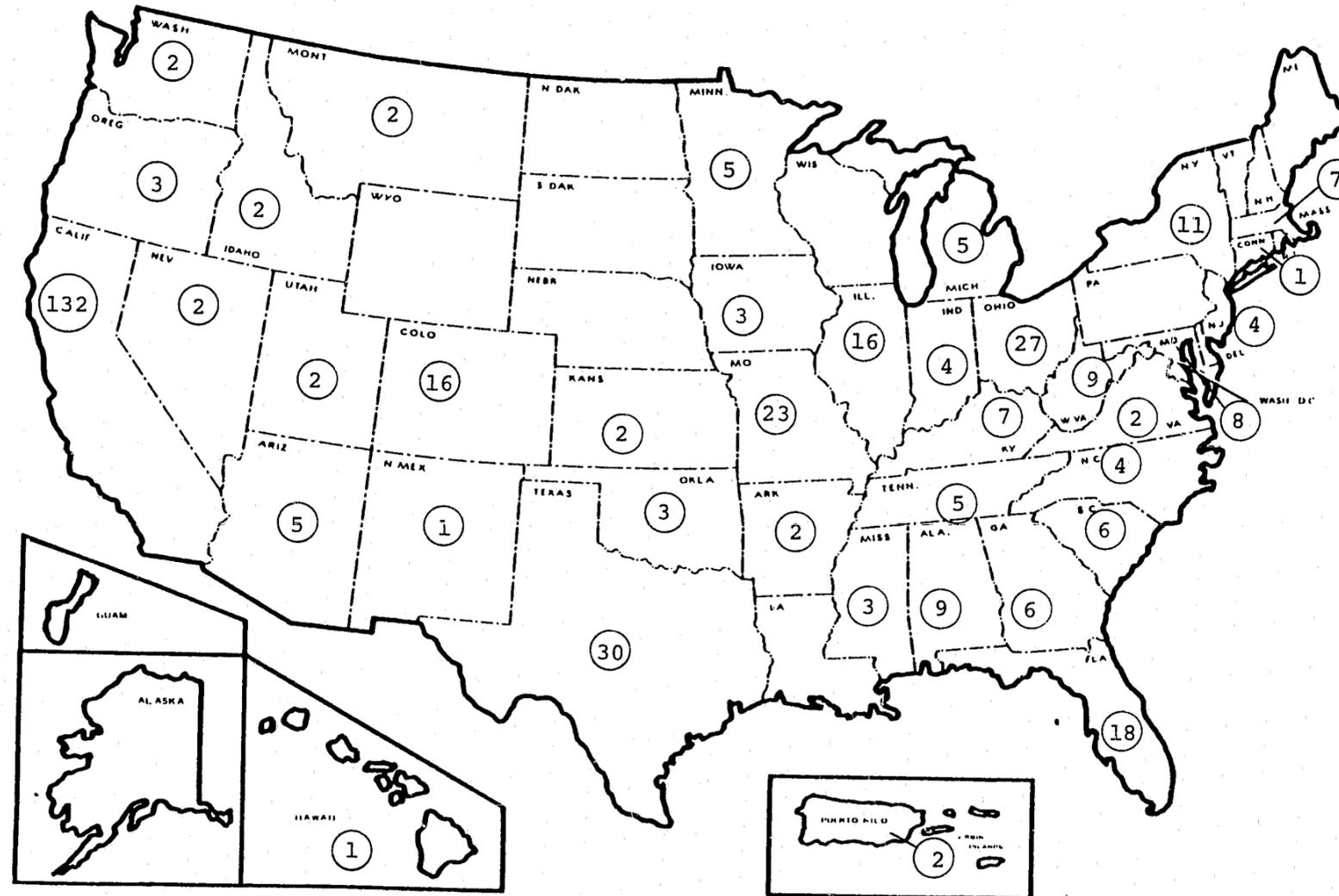


TABLE 8
BOMBINGS BY SPECIFIC TARGETS
FOR 1978 - 1979
(ACTUAL DETONATIONS OR IGNITIONS)

TYPE TARGET	TOTAL INCIDENTS		NO. KILLED		NO. INJURED		PROPERTY DAMAGE/ ¹	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
Commercial	375	274	6	4	46	24	8,777.7	2,930.5
Residential	294	266	7	7	57	43	2,982.2	262.7
Airports/ Aircraft	5	3	-	-	-	4	.2	-
Police Facilities/ Vehicles	29	25	-	1	-	4	70.4	93.0
Educational	97	108	-	1	5	26	532.3	301.0
Government (Local)	9	12	1	-	4	1	70.1	123.7
Government (Federal)	22	16	-	-	1	-	6.6	17.6
Military Installations	3	4	-	1	1	1	-	15.1
Utilities	57	38	-	-	2	-	1,727.7	51.0
Banks	18	14	-	-	-	-	49.3	34.0
Vehicles	252	214	7	10	25	28	2,119.4	1,450.3
Open Areas	40	53	2	-	13	43	4.2	8.6
Mail Boxes	69	92	-	-	2	-	2.1	6.0
Other	137	126	-	1	27	23	869.9	362.3
Unknown/ ²	2	2	-	-	252	1	-	-
TOTAL	1,409	1,247	23	25	435	198	17,212.1	5,655.8

1. Estimated dollar losses are listed in thousands and are not reported in all incidents.

2. This category includes those incidents where the type target was either unknown or not reported.

TABLE 9
BOMBING INCIDENTS BY MOTIVE,
INCLUDING PROPERTY DAMAGE FOR
1978 - 1979

MOTIVE	PROPERTY DAMAGE/ ¹		INCIDENTS		PERCENTAGE/ ²	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
Vandalism	\$119.1	\$57.6	106	165	28.9%	37.4%
Revenge	577.7	285.4	105	147	28.7%	33.3%
Labor Related	2,758.8	646.2	87	38	23.8%	8.6%
Extortion	266.7	176.8	19	33	5.2%	7.5%
Insurance Fraud	357.0	242.0	7	5	1.9%	1.1%
Protest	1,116.5	639.4	30	41	8.2%	9.3%
Suicide	2.5	.2	2	1	.6%	.2%
Homicide	63.4	35.8	10	11	2.7%	2.6%
Unknown/ ³	9,048.5	3,053.7	597	460	-	-
TOTAL	\$14,310.2	\$5,137.1	963	901	100%	100%

1. Estimated dollar losses are listed in thousands. Amount of property damage was not reported in all incidents.
2. These percentages do not reflect 597 incidents in 1978 and 460 incidents in 1979 for which the motive was undetermined.
3. This category reflects those incidents where the motive was undetermined.

TABLE 10
INCENDIARY BOMBING INCIDENTS BY
MOTIVE, INCLUDING PROPERTY DAMAGE
FOR 1978 - 1979

MOTIVE	PROPERTY DAMAGE/ ¹		NUMBER OF INCIDENTS		PERCENTAGE/ ²	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
Revenge	\$133.1	\$171.9	67	95	42.9%	62.1%
Vandalism	21.4	5.1	19	23	12.2%	15.0%
Labor Related	587.2	3.0	30	21	19.2%	13.7%
Protest	126.2	79.2	26	7	16.7%	4.6%
Insurance Fraud	14.2	115.0	9	4	5.8%	2.6%
Extortion	0	7.5	2	2	1.3%	1.3%
Homicide	0	20.0	3	1	1.9%	.7%
Suicide	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Unknown/ ³	2,020.5	118.1	290	193	-	-
TOTAL	\$2,902.6	\$519.8	446	346	100%	100%

1. Estimated dollar losses are listed in thousands. Amount of property damage was not reported in all incidents.
2. These percentages do not reflect 290 incidents in 1978 and 193 incidents in 1979 for which the motive was undetermined.
3. The unknown category reflects those incidents where the motive was undetermined.

TABLE 11
 TYPES OF CONTAINERS USED AS DESTRUCTIVE
 DEVICES FOR 1978 - 1979

TYPE OF CONTAINER	NUMBER		PERCENTAGE/ ¹	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
Pipe	473	423	36.9%	37.7%
Bottle	407	376	31.8%	33.5%
Dynamite Sticks	199	187	15.5%	16.7%
Can	66	38	5.1%	3.4%
Cardboard/Metal Boxes	69	25	5.4%	2.2%
Other	68	73	5.3%	6.5%
Unknown	485	347	-	-
TOTAL CONTAINERS	1,767	1,469	100%	100%

1. These percentages do not include 485 incidents in 1978 and 347 incidents in 1979 for which the type of container was undetermined.

TABLE 12
 TYPES OF EXPLOSIVE FILLER CONTAINED
 WITHIN DESTRUCTIVE DEVICES
 FOR 1978 - 1979

TYPE OF FILLER	NUMBER		PERCENTAGE/ ¹	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
Flammable Liquid	468	358	36.2%	31.5%
Dynamite	251	215	19.4%	18.9%
Black Powder	171	180	13.2%	15.8%
Smokeless Powder	157	144	12.2%	12.7%
Photoflash Powder and/or Fireworks	N/A	99	-	8.7%
Military Explosives	54	74	4.2%	6.5%
Match Heads	N/A	22	-	1.9%
Chemical	7	12	.5%	1.1%
TNT	N/A	8	-	.7%
Blasting Agent	8	3	.6%	.3%
Other	176	22	13.7%	1.9%
Unknown	475	332	-	-
TOTAL FILLER	1,767	1,469	100%	100%

1. These percentages do not include 475 incidents in 1978 and 332 incidents in 1979 for which the type of filler was undetermined.

TABLE 13
 NUMBER OF BOMBING INCIDENTS BY
 MONTH FOR 1978 - 1979
 (ACTUAL DETONATIONS)

MONTH	BOMBINGS		INCENDIARY		TOTAL	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
January	72	51	25	32	97	83
February	67	56	33	18	100	74
March	84	71	32	37	116	108
April	87	73	31	28	118	101
May	96	76	49	27	145	103
June	81	66	45	27	126	93
July	101	97	47	30	148	127
August	86	87	45	31	131	118
September	89	71	55	36	144	107
October	70	92	31	28	101	120
November	58	86	30	29	88	115
December	72	75	23	23	95	98
TOTALS	963	901	446	346	1,409	1,247

PART II

STOLEN EXPLOSIVES and RECOVERIES

(PROJECT SEAR)

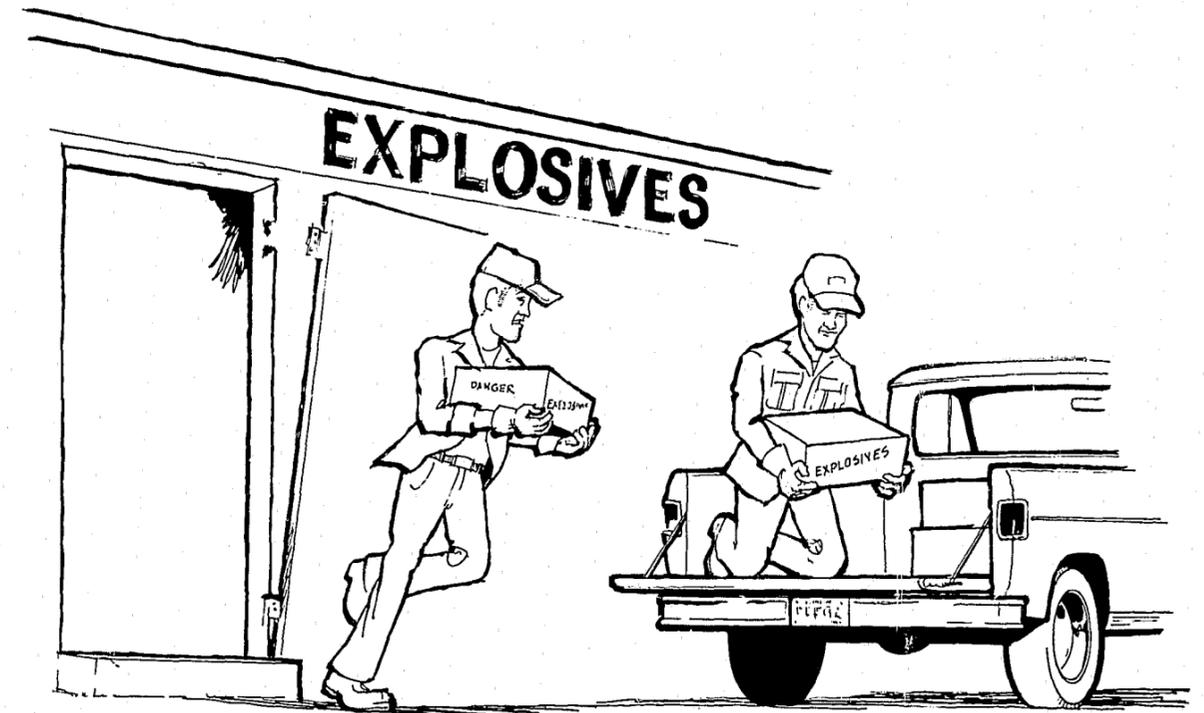


TABLE 14
ACCIDENTAL EXPLOSIONS BY SPECIFIC TARGETS
FOR 1978 - 1979

TYPE TARGET	TOTAL INCIDENTS		NO. KILLED		NO. INJURED		PROPERTY DAMAGE/ 1	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
Residential	16	8	10	1	16	8	\$138.0	\$145.0
Commercial	29	26	26	4	43	31	3,140.0	6,421.5
Educational	1	4	-	1	1	2	-	570.0
Government (State/local)	1	1	1	-	-	19	250.0	-
Government (Federal)	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Utilities	4	4	3	-	27	-	1,500.0	1,400.0
Vehicles	6	9	2	19	155	63	50.0	1,756.0
Open Area	4	3	-	2	5	2	-	-
Other	9	5	4	2	24	5	5,170.0	75.0
TOTAL	71	60	46	29	272	130	\$10,248.0	\$10,367.5

1. Estimated dollar losses are listed in thousands. Amount of property damage was not reported in all incidents.

BACKGROUND

The legislative history of Title XI of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970 indicated a primary concern for the theft or loss of explosive materials because of the potential criminal misuse of such stolen explosive materials and the inherent dangers to public safety. Consequently, in 1976, ATF initiated "Project SEAR" (Stolen Explosives and Recoveries) in an effort to combat the problem of explosives thefts and losses; to aid in the recovery of such materials; to assist in the investigative processes of criminal bombings or accidental explosions; to determine trends and establish patterns of such thefts; and to assist State, local, foreign, or other Federal agencies in their investigations of explosives related matters. In addition, appropriate information regarding stolen explosives is provided to the licensed explosives industry in furtherance of a mutual concern for public safety.

The information reported to ATF relative to stolen or recovered explosives is subsequently computerized in the Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS), and thereby readily retrievable to support the various objectives of the project. To facilitate the reporting of a theft, loss, or recovery of explosive materials, and to expedite the investigation of such incidents, ATF has established a toll free telephone number (800-424-9555) that may be utilized by licensees, permittees, carriers, or any person having knowledge of a loss or theft of explosives.



HIGHLIGHTS

During 1979, there were 335 stolen explosives incidents reported to ATF. This represents a 7.4 percent decrease from the preceding year.

The combined thefts in 1979 totaled 104,247 pounds of explosives, 141,628 feet of detonating cord/safety fuse and 47,918 blasting caps. These totals reflect a 3 percent increase in the quantity of stolen explosives, a 24.7 percent increase in the quantity of stolen detonating cord/safety fuse, and a 28 percent decrease in the number of blasting caps stolen, as compared with calendar year 1978.

The volume of incidents related to the recovery of explosives reported in 1979 totaled 1,167. This represents an 18.2 percent increase over the 987 recovery incidents reported in 1978.

During 1979, ATF special agents and/or other law enforcement agencies recovered 84,197 pounds of explosives through seizures, abandonments, or by undercover purchases. The total recovery reflects a 12.3 percent increase over the 74,966 pounds of explosives recovered in 1978.

While most of the statistical trends relating to stolen/recovered explosives during the past year have been positive, ATF continues to assist other Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials in deterring, detecting, and recovering lost or stolen explosives.

TABLE 15
 QUANTITY OF EXPLOSIVES STOLEN BY
 GENERAL AND SPECIFIC TYPES
 FOR 1978 - 1979

TYPE - GENERAL	AMOUNT STOLEN	
	1978	1979
High Explosives	58,327 lbs.	36,338 lbs.
Low Explosives	718 lbs.	2,452 lbs.
Blasting Agents	42,172 lbs.	65,457 lbs.
TYPE - SPECIFIC	AMOUNT STOLEN	
	1978	1979
Blasting Agents	42,172 lbs.	65,457 lbs.
Dynamite	44,316 lbs.	33,886 lbs.
Black Powder	379 lbs.	2,446 lbs.
Military Explosives	123 lbs.	1,418 lbs.
Primer	4,333 lbs.	545 lbs.
Boosters	9,528 lbs.	447 lbs.
TNT	17 lbs.	37 lbs.
Smokeless Powder	163 lbs.	6 lbs.
Other/ ¹	186 lbs.	5 lbs.
Grenades	N/A	1,822 each
Blasting Caps	66,614 each	47,918 each
Det. Cord/Safety Fuse/Ignitor Cord	113,510 feet	141,628 feet
TOTAL EXPLOSIVES STOLEN	1978	1979
Pounds of Explosives:	101,217 lbs.	104,247 lbs.
Det. Cord/Safety Fuse/Ignitor Cord:	113,510 ft.	141,628 ft.
Blasting Caps:	66,614 ea.	47,918 ea.

1. Other specific types of explosives were identified but not included in this table due to the small quantities involved.

TABLE 16
 EXPLOSIVES THEFTS BY METHOD OF ENTRY - NUMBER
 OF INCIDENTS AND PERCENTAGES FOR 1978 - 1979

ENTRY METHOD	NUMBER		PERCENTAGE/ ¹	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
Locks Cut	71	54	26.9%	24%
Locks Pried	50	29	19.0%	12.9%
Door Pried	10	19	3.9%	8.4%
Key	23	19	8.8%	8.4%
Window Entry	3	2	1.1%	.9%
Wall Entry	16	11	6.1%	4.9%
Burning	1	0	.4%	---
Roof Entry	3	6	1.1%	2.7%
Door Blown	2	0	.8%	---
Floor Entry	1	0	.4%	---
Vent Entry	3	2	1.1%	.9%
Other	80	83	30.4%	36.9%
Unknown/ ²	99	110	---	---
TOTAL	362	335	100%	100%

1. These percentages do not include the 99 incidents for 1978 and the 110 incidents for 1979 where the method of entry was undetermined.

2. These figures reflect those incidents where the entry method could not be determined.

TABLE 17

STOLEN EXPLOSIVES BY STATE SHOWING NUMBER
OF INCIDENTS, EXPLOSIVES STOLEN IN POUNDS,
AND BLASTING CAPS BY QUANTITY FOR 1978 - 1979

STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS		EXPLOSIVES (LBS.)		BLASTING CAPS	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
Alabama	14	11	18,511	55,052	6,751	5,272
Alaska	3	4	101	98	0	789
Arizona	8	6	201	319	1,120	431
Arkansas	6	6	1,913	2,908	10	2,217
California	17	8	8,127	885	1,093	1,100
Colorado	16	7	6,359	349	3,065	900
Connecticut	2	8	102	432	164	2,507
Delaware	0	0	0	0	0	0
District of Columbia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	9	7	4,387	681	3,863	626
Georgia	7	8	32	1,504	1,601	1,284
Hawaii	1	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho	4	6	2,668	2,540	0	1,100
Illinois	12	7	757	1,577	508	100
Indiana	5	6	696	689	934	198
Iowa	3	2	245	64	979	0
Kansas	6	2	1,651	150	1,480	0
Kentucky	27	17	1,850	6,790	10,371	3,908
Louisiana	12	7	1,998	580	261	270

TABLE 17

(Continued)

STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS		EXPLOSIVES (LBS.)		BLASTING CAPS	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
Maine	2	1	50	124	1,092	0
Maryland	6	0	307	0	429	0
Massachusetts	1	1	0	5	0	0
Michigan	2	3	25	50	3	49
Minnesota	2	4	50	52	0	1,009
Mississippi	2	2	162	1,020	0	0
Missouri	7	12	1,914	1,815	176	2,526
Montana	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nebraska	3	2	150	27	0	20
Nevada	1	5	5	25	300	958
New Hampshire	0	1	0	3	0	0
New Jersey	2	8	112	158	30	510
New Mexico	8	6	1,750	465	7,305	24
New York	7	3	292	440	2,284	75
North Carolina	7	8	450	438	242	100
North Dakota	1	3	0	945	100	217
Ohio	14	14	6,670	780	2,324	526
Oklahoma	13	14	3,274	1,181	1,370	1,166
Oregon	7	3	2,521	180	590	452
Pennsylvania	21	19	2,192	1,350	2,811	1,282
Rhode Island	1	0	100	0	0	0

TABLE 17
(Continued)

STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS		EXPLOSIVES (LBS.)		BLASTING CAPS	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
South Carolina	2	2	79	30	48	550
South Dakota	1	1	0	123	150	0
Tennessee	19	17	5,998	5,390	2,403	870
Texas	22	33	11,990	2,198	4,078	7,772
Utah	7	3	4,000	0	1,165	2,595
Vermont	0	3	0	155	0	450
Virginia	14	14	1,134	2,118	2,097	3,056
Washington	9	13	1,650	2,745	1,200	52
West Virginia	20	17	5,790	1,340	1,544	2,939
Wisconsin	4	0	100	0	2,172	0
Wyoming	4	6	57	5,800	13	0
Guam	0	5	0	672	0	18
Puerto Rico	1	0	797	0	488	0
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	362	335	101,217	104,247	66,614	47,918

TABLE 18
STOLEN EXPLOSIVES RANKED
BY TOP TEN STATES FOR 1978 - 1979

RANK	STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	RANK	STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS
1.	Kentucky	27	1.	Texas	33
2.	Texas	22	2.	Pennsylvania	19
3.	Pennsylvania	21	3.	Kentucky	17
4.	West Virginia	20	4.	Tennessee	17
5.	Tennessee	19	5.	West Virginia	17
6.	California	17	6.	Ohio	14
7.	Colorado	16	7.	Oklahoma	14
8.	Alabama	14	8.	Virginia	14
9.	Ohio	14	9.	Washington	13
10.	Virginia	14	10.	Missouri	12

FIGURE 3
EXPLOSIVES THEFT INCIDENTS
(GEOGRAPHIC AREA)
1979

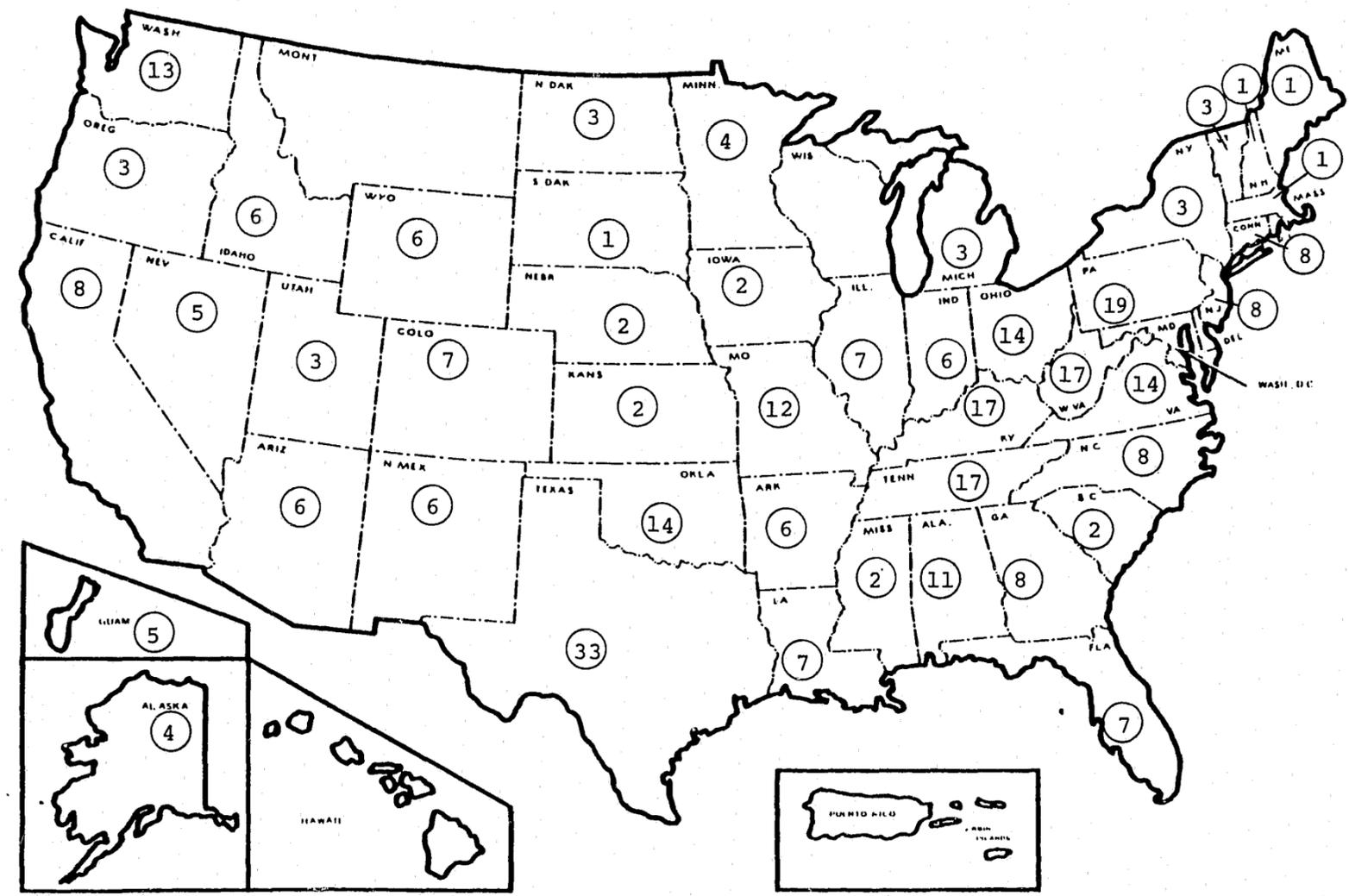


TABLE 19
NUMBER AND PERCENT OF TOTAL STOLEN EXPLOSIVES
INCIDENTS BY MONTH FOR 1978 - 1979

MONTH	1978		1979	
	NUMBER	PERCENT/ ¹	NUMBER	PERCENT
January	22	6.0%	25	7.5%
February	20	5.5%	23	6.9%
March	30	8.3%	35	10.4%
April	25	6.9%	28	8.4%
May	32	8.8%	34	10.1%
June	42	11.6%	33	9.8%
July	34	9.4%	33	9.8%
August	33	9.1%	26	7.8%
September	29	8.0%	29	8.6%
October	44	12.1%	25	7.5%
November	32	8.8%	22	6.6%
December	19	5.2%	22	6.6%
TOTAL	362	99.7%	335	100%

1. Percentages do not total 100 percent due to rounding.

TABLE 20

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STOLEN EXPLOSIVES INCIDENTS FROM MANUFACTURERS, DEALERS, PERMITTEES, AND USERS FOR 1978-1979

TYPE OF LICENSE/ ¹	NUMBER OF THEFTS	PERCENT	NUMBER OF THEFTS	PERCENT
	1978		1979	
Manufacturers	31	8.6%	28	8.4%
Dealers	29	8.0%	30	8.9%
Permittees	72	19.9%	70	20.9%
Users (Nonlicensed)	230	63.5%	207	61.8%
TOTAL	362	100%	335	100%

1. Manufacturer means any person engaged in the business of manufacturing explosive materials for purpose of sale and distribution or for his own use.

Dealer means any person engaged in the business of distributing explosive materials at wholesale or retail.

Permittee means any person issued a permit authorizing him to acquire for his own use explosive materials from a licensee and to transport explosive materials so acquired in interstate or foreign commerce.

Nonlicensed users of explosives are individuals who acquire and use explosives for lawful purposes in the State in which they reside.

TABLE 21
QUANTITY OF EXPLOSIVES RECOVERED BY
GENERAL AND SPECIFIC TYPES FOR
1978 - 1979

TYPE-GENERAL	AMOUNT RECOVERED	
	1978	1979
High Explosives	42,501 lbs.	39,455 lbs.
Low Explosives	8,842 lbs.	11,407 lbs.
Blasting Agents	23,623 lbs.	33,335 lbs.
TYPE-SPECIFIC	AMOUNT RECOVERED	
	1978	1979
Blasting Agents	23,623 lbs.	33,335 lbs.
Dynamite	41,008 lbs.	30,975 lbs.
Smokeless Powder	1,361 lbs.	7,546 lbs.
Military Explosives	697 lbs.	3,436 lbs.
Boosters	362 lbs.	2,897 lbs.
Black Powder	723 lbs.	2,856 lbs.
TNT	86 lbs.	1,897 lbs.
Potassium Chlorate	6,300 lbs.	600 lbs.
Primer	344 lbs.	138 lbs.
RDX	4 lbs.	20 lbs.
Photoflash Powder	150 lbs.	0
Other/ ¹	308 lbs.	497 lbs.
Grenades	N/A	566 each
Blasting Caps	44,456 each	29,222 each
Det. Cord/Safety Fuse/Ignitor Cord	101,117 feet	148,850 feet
TOTAL EXPLOSIVES RECOVERED	1978	1979
Pounds of Explosives:	74,966 lbs.	84,197 lbs.
Det. Cord/Safety Fuse/Ignitor Cord:	101,117 ft.	148,850 ft.
Blasting caps:	44,456 ea.	29,222 ea.

1. Other specific types of explosives recovered were not included in this category due to the small quantities involved.

TABLE 22

RECOVERED EXPLOSIVES BY STATE SHOWING NUMBER
OF INCIDENTS, EXPLOSIVES RECOVERED IN
POUNDS, AND BLASTING CAPS BY QUANTITY FOR
1978 - 1979/1

STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS		EXPLOSIVES (LBS.)		BLASTING CAPS	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
Alabama	43	33	2,681	372	1,798	144
Alaska	4	0	8	0	71	0
Arizona	9	1	187	0	156	0
Arkansas	11	21	847	815	17	2,132
California	44	23	5,721	651	2,243	371
Colorado	24	22	529	1,512	1,539	1,172
Connecticut	2	11	2	284	0	2,261
Delaware	7	4	2,196	14	758	0
District of Columbia	0	2	0	13	0	12
Florida	19	8	1,672	651	2,827	201
Georgia	38	67	2,435	549	1,095	680
Hawaii	3	6	1	0	0	0
Idaho	6	4	355	1,764	35	12
Illinois	42	63	307	2,598	665	756
Indiana	14	15	290	1,124	743	142
Iowa	7	6	232	351	111	1
Kansas	14	9	3,720	314	2,483	4
Kentucky	67	121	5,013	5,393	1,253	4,719
Louisiana	14	11	820	103	2,533	14

1. This category includes seized, abandoned, and purchased (undercover) explosives.

TABLE 22

(Continued)

STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS		EXPLOSIVES (LBS.)		BLASTING CAPS	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
Maine	1	2	0	25	29	0
Maryland	10	8	6,298	29	154	66
Massachusetts	14	9	355	69	38	18
Michigan	20	10	176	18	54	44
Minnesota	4	14	53	138	3	0
Mississippi	8	19	215	275	7	92
Missouri	27	50	1,176	5,047	457	1,509
Montana	1	2	944	47	0	200
Nebraska	5	1	259	200	0	871
Nevada	7	5	262	81	356	391
New Hampshire	0	2	0	2	0	0
New Jersey	16	19	44	176	56	285
New Mexico	15	9	696	1,099	1,645	2,072
New York	25	20	601	437	3,073	50
North Carolina	55	85	1,134	1,467	585	1,884
North Dakota	0	12	0	1,184	0	210
Ohio	37	59	7,145	3,670	1,267	677
Oklahoma	34	35	1,943	9,134	666	1,474
Oregon	22	6	945	36	231	49
Pennsylvania	27	24	3,450	622	673	314

TABLE 22
(Continued)

STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS		EXPLOSIVES (LBS.)		BLASTING CAPS	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
Rhode Island	2	0	100	0	50	0
South Carolina	38	50	1,055	593	677	743
South Dakota	6	4	20	296	325	0
Tennessee	37	33	794	1,502	358	688
Texas	47	77	7,375	4,143	6,462	973
Utah	12	8	682	240	182	1
Vermont	1	1	4	150	0	0
Virginia	46	40	658	1,795	655	825
Washington	17	22	258	1,846	160	346
West Virginia	61	90	10,833	32,514	4,507	2,539
Wisconsin	9	13	127	34	2,272	0
Wyoming	10	10	152	773	28	280
Guam	2	1	196	47	1,159	0
Puerto Rico	1	0	0	0	0	0
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	987	1,167	74,966	84,197	44,456	29,222

TABLE 23
RECOVERED EXPLOSIVES RANKED BY
TOP TEN STATES FOR 1978 - 1979

RANK	STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	RANK	STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS
1.	Kentucky	67	1.	Kentucky	121
2.	West Virginia	61	2.	West Virginia	90
3.	North Carolina	55	3.	North Carolina	85
4.	Texas	47	4.	Texas	77
5.	Virginia	46	5.	Georgia	67
6.	California	44	6.	Illinois	63
7.	Alabama	43	7.	Ohio	59
8.	Illinois	42	8.	Missouri	50
9.	Georgia	38		South Carolina	50
	South Carolina	38	9.	Virginia	40
10.	Ohio	37	10.	Oklahoma	35
	Tennessee	37			

TABLE 24
NUMBER OF RECOVERED EXPLOSIVES INCIDENTS
BY MONTH FOR 1978 - 1979

MONTH	1978		1979	
	NUMBER	PERCENT/ ¹	NUMBER	PERCENT/ ¹
January	85	8.6%	60	5.1%
February	71	7.2%	47	4.0%
March	86	8.7%	98	8.4%
April	90	9.1%	83	7.1%
May	85	8.6%	250	21.4%
June	99	10.0%	168	14.4%
July	78	7.9%	80	6.9%
August	96	9.7%	85	7.3%
September	87	8.8%	70	5.9%
October	77	7.8%	89	7.6%
November	73	7.4%	79	6.8%
December	60	6.1%	58	4.9%
TOTAL	987	99.9%	1,167	99.8%

1. These columns do not total 100 percent due to rounding.

PART III



FOR PROFITS



STATUTORY AUTHORITY

ATF's investigative jurisdiction in arson crimes emanates from the statutory enforcement responsibilities defined in chapter 40 of Title 18, U.S.C. (i.e., Title XI of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970); and chapter 53 of Title 26, U.S.C. (i.e., Title II of the Gun Control Act of 1968).

Arson incidents perpetrated by the use of destructive devices, incendiary devices, explosives or accelerants with explosive potential may often include violations of "Title II" or "Title XI," or a combination of both. For example:

1. Under Title II of the Gun Control Act of 1968 (Title 26 U.S.C., section 5845(f)), a "destructive device" is defined as any explosive or incendiary bomb or similar device, or any combination of parts from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. Such "destructive devices" must be registered with ATF (in the same fashion as a machinegun, sawed-off shotgun, etc.) ----- and in the absence of that required registration, the possessor(s) of the "device" is in violation of the law. The "molotov cocktail" is a good example of an incendiary destructive device covered under this section of the statute.
2. Under Title XI of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970 (Title 18 U.S.C., chapter 40, section 844(j)), the definition of an "EXPLOSIVE" covers generic explosive materials (i.e., dynamite), certain incendiary devices, AND any chemical compound (such as gasoline), combined with oxidizing units (air), that causes (or may cause) an EXPLOSION if ignited by fire or some other means of detonation. The additional element required by this statute is that the TARGET of the arson (explosives) related incident must be connected with INTERSTATE or foreign commerce. Hence, if such, "EXPLOSIVES" are used to perpetrate an arson, and the interstate or foreign commerce element exists, then ATF's jurisdiction under this statute (especially, section 844(i)) can be applied.

It is only within the definition of these statutes that ATF has the jurisdictional authority to investigate arson crimes. Consequently, we have structured our arson enforcement program toward "arson-for-profit" schemes and/or other significant arson related crimes directed toward commercial or industrial activities, when the perpetrators of such crimes are suspected to be: (a) members or associates of organized crime; (b) white-collar criminals; (c) members of organized "arson rings"; and/or (d) violent criminals whose illegal activities impact upon the community at large.

ATF provides assistance and support to State/local authorities through:

- (1) Joint investigative efforts, especially when the nature or magnitude of the arson incident(s) extends beyond the jurisdiction or resource capability of such authorities.
- (2) The administration of training programs directed toward "arson-for-profit" investigative techniques and laboratory techniques for the examination of arson debris.
- (3) The use of ATF laboratory facilities to process and examine evidence collected at the scene of an arson crime.

ATF realizes that we do not, and jurisdictionally cannot, address the totality of arson incidents occurring throughout the United States. However, within the framework of our statutory authority and resource capabilities, we believe that we are successfully addressing an element of arson related criminal activity that warrants Federal emphasis.

Note: This section of the report reflects statistical data relative to arson incidents that were investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) during calendar year 1979.

TABLE 25

ARSON INCIDENTS INVESTIGATED BY ATF
FOR 1979

TARGET	INCIDENTS INVESTIGATED	KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY ¹ DAMAGE/ (IN MILLIONS)	PERCENT OF INCIDENTS
Commercial Buildings	427	9	92	109.9	67.4%
Commercial Dwellings	135	36	169	27.1	21.3%
Vehicles	40	2	2	1.2	6.3%
Educational	12	0	5	3.1	1.9%
Other	20	0	0	1.7	3.1%
TOTAL	634	47	268	143.0	100%

1. Property damages listed above are based upon estimates that are generally reported during the preliminary stages of the investigation and do not reflect all property loss that might have occurred. Furthermore, in some instances, no reports of property damage are submitted.

TABLE 26

MOTIVE FOR ARSON INCIDENTS INVESTIGATED BY ATF
FOR 1979

MOTIVE	INCIDENTS	PERCENTAGE/ ¹
Insurance	176	56.2%
Revenge	56	17.9%
Extortion	41	13.1%
Labor Related	26	8.3%
Protest	7	2.2%
Vandalism	5	1.7%
Homicide	1	.3%
Suicide	1	.3%
Unknown	321	
TOTAL	634	100%

1. These percentages do not include 321 incidents in 1979 for which the motive was undetermined.

TABLE 27

TYPES OF ACCELERANTS IDENTIFIED IN ARSON INCIDENTS INVESTIGATED BY ATF
FOR 1979

ACCELERANTS	INCIDENTS	PERCENTAGE/ ¹
Gasoline	230	66.6%
Kerosene	16	4.6%
Fuel Oil	13	3.8%
Paint Thinner	8	2.3%
Natural Gas	8	2.3%
Diesel Fuel	7	2.0%
Coleman Fuel	6	1.7%
Turpentine	5	1.4%
Alcohol	5	1.4%
Acetone	4	1.2%
Naphtha	4	1.2%
Lacquer Thinner	4	1.2%
Mineral Spirits	4	1.2%
Motor Oil	4	1.2%
Smokeless Powder	3	.9%
Benzine	3	.9%
Charcoal Lighter	3	.9%
Toluene	2	.6%
Ethyl Alcohol	2	.6%
Others	14	4.0%
Unknown	289	
TOTAL	634	100%

1. These percentages do not include 289 incidents in 1979 in which the accelerant was undetermined.

PART IV



EXPLOSIVES RELATED INCIDENTS
SIGNIFICANT 1979 INVESTIGATIONS

ALABAMA

In June 1979, an arson occurred at the Barn Restaurant, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, with losses set at \$265,000. An investigation by ATF and local authorities resulted in the arrest of the owner and a hired "torch," charging both with Federal explosives law violations in a scheme to defraud an insurance company of claims on the "over-insured" business.

ALASKA

On October 10, 1979, the International Market Place in Anchorage, Alaska was destroyed by arson. Damages to the contents and building structure were estimated to be approximately \$3.8 million. In June 1980, five Anchorage men were indicted in connection with this arson.

CALIFORNIA

On October 14, 1979, an arson occurred at Western Farms, Inc., Long Beach, California. The arsonist, severely burned while perpetrating the crime, later died. Before his death, he implicated the owners of the meat packing plant in a scheme devised to collect \$3,000,000 in insurance coverage on the business. Investigation by ATF and the Long Beach Police Department resulted in the arrest of two Long Beach men.

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A 1979 investigation by ATF and the Los Angeles Fire Department resulted in the January 1980 arrest of two Los Angeles businessmen who had "torched" their garment business to defraud an insurance company. The fire resulted in \$250,000 damage.

CONNECTICUT

In October 1979, an arson occurred at a West Hartford, Connecticut shopping center complex. The fire originated in a supermarket and spread throughout the entire block of stores causing \$1.5 million in damages.

FLORIDA

During November 1979, two Miami, Florida, men pled guilty to the attempted arson of the Elks Club in Naples, Florida. Following an extensive investigation by the Miami Arson Task Force, a "hired torch" was arrested, during an ATF/local agency "stake-out" of the premises, as he attempted to burn the club.

GEORGIA

On December 24, 1979, a bomb wrapped as a Christmas package exploded, injuring a Dublin, Georgia, resident. The victim, a paraplegic, had received the package in the mail. When opened on Christmas Eve, the package exploded causing injuries to the recipient and another occupant of the house.

HAWAII

On July 16, 1979, ATF and the Honolulu Police and Fire Departments culminated an 18-month investigation resulting in the arrest and conviction of two men charged with the incendiary bombing of a Honolulu pornographic bookstore. The investigation involved an organized crime figure who conspired to defraud an insurance company of \$148,000 by contracting a hired "torch" to destroy the building.

ILLINOIS

On May 16, 1979, a Federal grand jury in Chicago, Illinois indicted a Chicago man for the fire bombing of two Illinois restaurants. Two elderly people died as fire swept through one of these restaurants located in Maywood, Illinois. The defendant, a known "torch-for-hire" and organized crime associate, was subsequently convicted of burning the Bull and Bear Restaurant in Chicago, Illinois.

KENTUCKY

On February 11, 1979, an explosion destroyed the offices of a Hazard, Kentucky coal company, fatally injuring the firm's accountant. The victim was killed by an improvised explosive device contained in a briefcase. Four Kentucky men were convicted of the murder.

* * * * *

On August 22, 1979, a Lexington, Kentucky, woman and her 9 year old son were accidentally killed in an explosion while driving near their home in Estill, Kentucky. Investigation revealed that the victim had just purchased 10 sticks of dynamite from a local firm and was transporting the explosives, with electric blasting caps, in the floor-board of the vehicle.

MASSACHUSETTS

In November 1979, ATF special agents in Boston, Massachusetts, concluded an investigation of an explosion that completely destroyed a building occupied by Jake's Cafe in Lowell, Massachusetts. The explosion, initiated by an improvised timing device designed to ignite natural gas, damaged an additional 68 businesses and injured 23 persons. The owner of the property was arrested in connection with the profit motivated crime.

MICHIGAN

On March 15, 1979, a pipe bomb detonated, causing extensive damage to a 1976 Mercury owned by a Mt. Clemens, Michigan, resident. Three conspirators were arrested in connection with the drug related incident.

MINNESOTA

On December 16, 1979, two Bloomington, Minnesota, police cars were destroyed by an improvised explosive device. Damage to the vehicles was set at \$20,000. An investigation by ATF and the Bloomington Police Department resulted in the arrest of two suspects.

MISSISSIPPI

On August 25, 1979, an explosive device detonated under the front seat of a 1976 Toyota, causing the death of a Pascagoula, Mississippi, woman.

MISSOURI

On November 8, 1979, an explosive device detonated under a vehicle in Richmond Heights, Missouri, killing the owner/operator.

NEW JERSEY

On January 12, 1979, the ATF Arson Task Force in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in cooperation with other Federal and local law enforcement agencies, successfully concluded an "arson-for-profit" investigation that aborted a fraudulent claim of \$1,118,928 filed against a Philadelphia insurance company.

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On November 16, 1979, an ATF undercover agent arrested an Ocean City man in an "arson-for-hire" case as the suspect attempted to "fire bomb" a residential building in Ocean City, New Jersey.

NEW YORK

An extensive investigation conducted in Rochester, New York during 1979 by ATF and other Federal and State authorities was concluded with the sentencing of seven defendants for their involvement in a series of six organized crime related bombings. The "mob warfare" related bombings resulted in the death of two members of rival crime factions in the Rochester area.

NORTH CAROLINA

In November 1979, ATF and Ft. Bragg C.I.D. authorities initiated an investigation of military personnel involved in the theft, storage and sale of stolen military explosives. An undercover investigation resulted in the purchase of 75 claymore mines, handgrenades, and other ordnance items. Two Ft. Bragg men were arrested.

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On May 25, 1979, a fire occurred in the downtown business area of Shelby, North Carolina, that totally destroyed a clothing firm and several surrounding business establishments. The fire resulted in the deaths of four firemen, a public utilities official, as well as injuries to 36 other persons.

NORTH CAROLINA (Continued)

Subsequent investigation by ATF, State, and local authorities culminated in the arrest of two Shelby, North Carolina, men, including the owner of the clothing firm, who perpetrated the fire in connection with an insurance fraud scheme. On April 21, 1980, the principal defendant was sentenced to a total of 50 years' imprisonment on arson/manslaughter charges.

OHIO

On July 7, 1979, a Cleveland businessman was sentenced to serve 8 years, following an extensive investigation by ATF and the Cleveland Police and Fire Departments. The businessman, along with a city housing official, engaged in a pattern of racketeering for the purpose of defrauding insurance companies by perpetrating numerous arsons in the Cleveland area.

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On July 6, 1979, a South Euclid, Ohio, resident was sentenced to an 8 year prison term resulting from an investigation by the ATF/Cleveland Police and Fire Department Arson Task Force. Investigators uncovered an "arson-for-profit" scheme, involving the defendant and four arsonists in 24 fires in the Cleveland area, perpetrated for the fraudulent collection of insurance claims.

OKLAHOMA

A joint Oklahoma City/Los Angeles District investigation was culminated on October 10, 1979, when an Oklahoma man delivered 94 pounds of military (C-4) explosives to an ATF undercover agent in San Diego, California.

PENNSYLVANIA

On September 24, 1979, a joint ATF/FBI/DEA investigation resulted in the arrest of two principal figures involved in organized crime racketeering and arson ring activities in the Philadelphia area.

SOUTH CAROLINA

On November 29, 1979, a 17-year-old youth was killed as he attempted to place a homemade bomb in a soft drink vending machine outside of a grocery store in St. Stephens, South Carolina.

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On August 27, 1979, Jordan's Store in Loris, South Carolina was destroyed by arson. The fire loss was estimated at \$20,000. ATF and Loris authorities arrested two persons in connection with the profit motivated arson.

TEXAS

As a result of an ATF investigation initiated in January 1979, a Houston, Texas, man was convicted of arson and sentenced to life imprisonment under the Texas habitual offenders statute. The defendant, an "arson-for-hire" ring leader and self-professed member of a New Jersey organized crime family, was arrested as he attempted to set fire to a Houston, Texas, restaurant. The subject, along with a codefendant, was subsequently charged with a conspiracy to murder the Government's key witness in this arson case.

* * * * *

On March 7, 1979, a custom van business in Arlington, Texas was destroyed by arson. Subsequent investigation by ATF determined that the motive for the fire was a \$400,000 insurance fraud scheme perpetrated by the owner and general manager. The two businessmen, along with a hired "torch," were convicted. A second indictment charged the owner with "solicitation for murder" when he attempted to have the "torch" killed, to prevent his testimony in the arson case.

TENNESSEE

On August 24, 1979, an arson occurred at the Classic Cat II, a lounge in Nashville, Tennessee. While continuing an investigation at the scene of the arson, ATF agents received information on a suspicious vehicle that was parked alongside the building. An examination of the vehicle revealed an improvised device consisting of 100 pounds of explosives set to detonate in 15 minutes. The bomb was disarmed by the Nashville Police Department Bomb Squad. On August 14, 1980, the investigation was culminated with the arrest of three defendants for violations relating to the arson and attempted bombing.

VIRGINIA

On November 21, 1979, a homemade bomb was thrown from a vehicle into Junior's Lunch, a cafe in Lynchburg, Virginia. The explosion caused \$28,000 in damages and injured three persons. Investigation of the incident by ATF and Lynchburg fire authorities resulted in the arrest of two men.

WASHINGTON

An ATF/FBI investigation of a series of night club fire bombings in the Seattle/Tacoma area was concluded in July 1979 with the conviction of fifteen defendants in connection with a major organized crime arson ring.

WASHINGTON, DC - MARYLAND

On May 10, 1979, a Baltimore, Maryland man was killed when an explosion destroyed his 1979 Dodge truck as he was preparing to leave his place of employment in Sparrows Point, Maryland. A Baltimore man was arrested and subsequently sentenced to serve thirty years for violations of the Federal explosives laws, in connection with this bombing murder.

WEST VIRGINIA

On October 30, 1979, an arson occurred at the Kapehart Hotel in Wheeling, West Virginia, killing a 1-year-old infant who fell five floors when his mother attempted to throw him to a nearby fire escape.

END