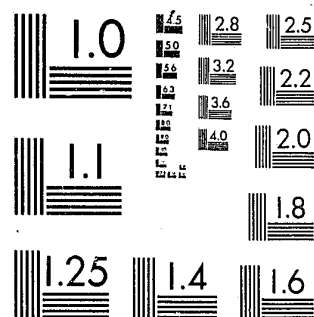


National Criminal Justice Reference Service



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State of Wisconsin \ OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Special Report:
The Growing Problem of Arson



PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORT

Special Report:
The Growing Problem of Arson

U.S. Department of Justice 76167
National Institute of Justice

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by

Patrick J. Riopelle

Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice
Program Evaluation Section
December 1978

Introduction

Few people appreciate the dramatic rate of increase of arson in recent years. Arson may be the most neglected crime in the country. In part this is due to the difficulty of trying to determine whether arson is a police problem or a fire department responsibility.

Arson is both like an orphan and like a child whose separated parents are fighting constantly over its custody. Clearly, it is a law enforcement problem; there are laws against arson and they must be enforced. But the immediate impact of an arson fire is on the firefighter who puts out the fire and thus is in a unique position to bear the responsibility for arson detection. The third side of the triangle is the victim of the arson, who may be the owner of the property which is burned, the insurance company which absorbs the risk of the owner and his banker, or the innocent bystander who loses his life. Wherever arson is encountered there is some kind of a division of responsibility, effective or not effective.¹

Roughly speaking, arson is the willful and malicious burning of another's property or the burning of one's own property for some improper purpose such as to defraud an insurer. For reporting purposes the Wisconsin Crime Information Bureau defines arson as "Violations of statutes and ordinances relating to arson and attempted arson. In the event a death results from arson, the incident would be classified as murder. If personal injury results, the situation would be classified as aggravated assault."² As a crime, arson is unique: usually an investigation must be conducted before it is even known that a crime was committed. Legally, the cause of a fire must be assumed to be accidental or natural until proven otherwise. Unfortunately, due to a lack of trained investigators, many fires are only perfunctorily investigated or are not investigated at all.

The Property Loss Research Bureau, an affiliate of the American Mutual Insurance Alliance, a non-profit association of over one hundred insurance companies, is constantly reminding the public that the actual dollar losses resulting from arson are much higher than property loss reports indicate. Indeed, the Bureau puts the annual real cost of arson at between ten to fifteen billion dollars:

The problem is that many enforcement agencies, legislators, government administrators and opinion leaders do not realize that arson fires touch all of

¹ Arson: America's Malignant Crime, prepared for the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C., September 1976, page 9.

² Department of Justice, Crime Information Bureau, Crime and Arrests 1977.

society in many ways. Employees lose jobs and income. Towns and cities lose tax dollars from destroyed industry. Property taxes have to be increased to support expanded fire and police department activities. Personal property is damaged or destroyed. Burned out buildings create blighted areas. Property damage causes increased insurance rates. Innocent people are injured or killed by arson fires.³

Arson as a National Problem

Arson is a serious and rapidly growing crime. In 1975⁴ the estimated loss from arson was \$1.4 billion (more than any offense on the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Index of Serious Crimes).⁵ The 1976 figure was believed to be close to \$2 billion. According to the data for 1975, this included \$1.3 billion lost in incendiary building fires, \$80 million in incendiary motor vehicle fires and \$60 million lost in incendiary wild-fires (forest and watershed areas). In addition to the property loss, there were 1,000 deaths including 45 firefighters and 10,000 injuries. Over the decade ending in 1975, incendiary building fires increased 325% (again, more than any of the Index offenses: murder, rape, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft). Graph 1 compares the Average Annual Property Loss for Part 1 offenses vis-a-vis arson.

Graph 2 compares the total property loss by cause for Part 1 offenses and arson.

Consider the problem of arson as opposed to bank robberies. "In 1974 the 3,500 bank robberies in the United States averaged \$3,600 in losses for a total loss of less than \$13 million. During the same year, the 187,000 known or suspected incendiary fires averaged \$3,300 in losses for a total loss of \$616 million."⁶ Admittedly, bank robberies are dramatic in the eyes of the public. Robbing a bank is a federal offense in addition to being a state crime. However, the seriousness of the arson problem cannot be minimized.

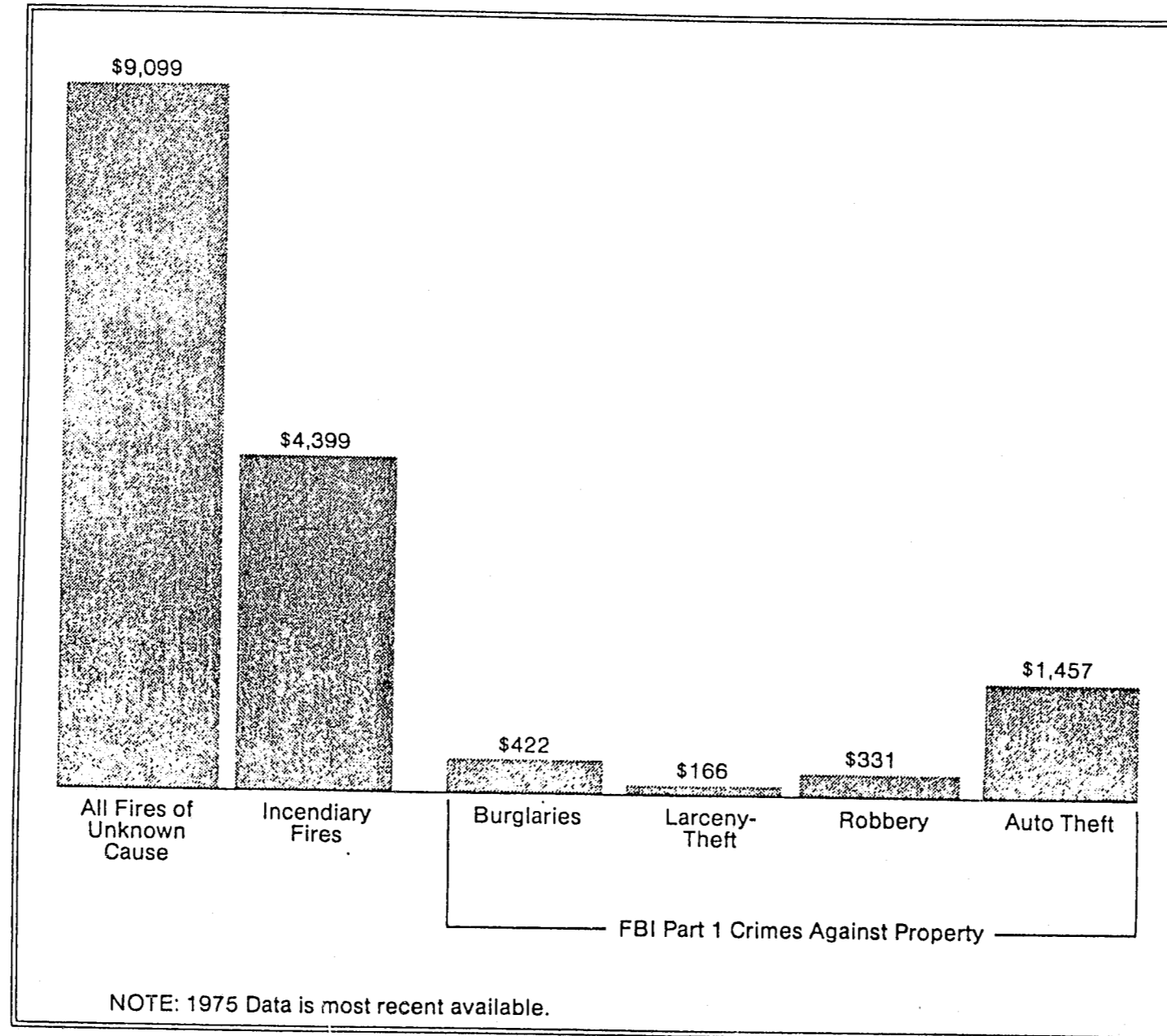
³ Property Loss Research Bureau, American Mutual Insurance Alliance, Chicago, Illinois, Arson Information Kit, 1977.

⁴ All data found within this report is the most recent. One of the problems surrounding arson is the scope and accuracy of reporting by various police and fire departments.

⁵ The Aerospace Corporation. Survey and Assessment of Arson and Investigation, prepared for the National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, LEAA, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., October 1977.

⁶ Ibid, page 32.

Average Annual Property Loss



Graph 1

Total Property Loss By Cause (in \$billions)

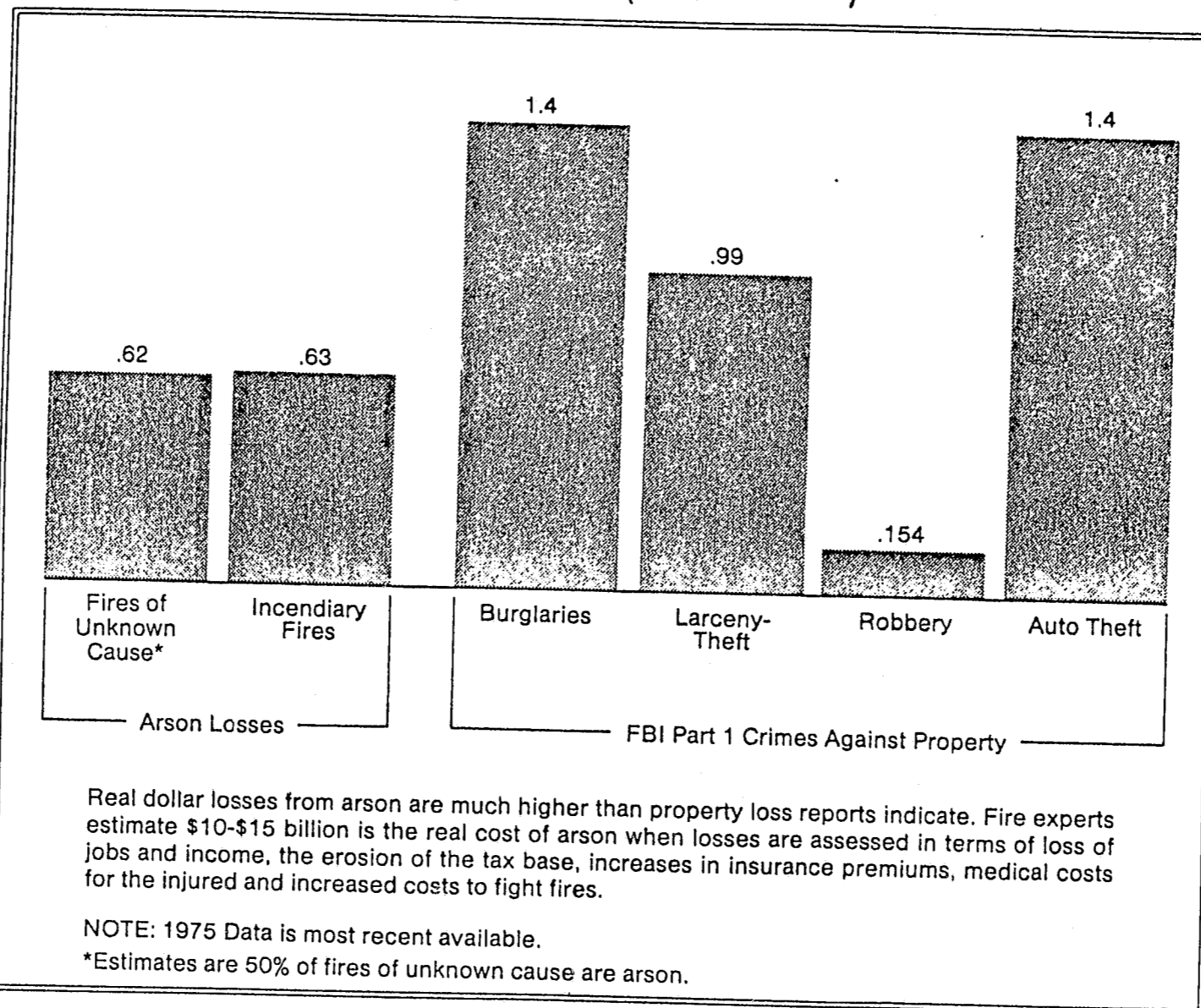


Table 1 lists building fire losses by type of occupancy for 1975.

Table 1: Incendiary Building Fire Losses⁷
by Type of Occupancy, 1975

Type of Occupancy	Total Number of Fires	% Arson or Suspicious	Average Loss, All Fires (\$)	Estimated Loss from Arson (\$ millions)
Schools and colleges	35,000	75	3,500	93
Churches	5,400	51	6,300	17
Storage	68,500	35	6,300	153
Offices and banks	8,100	34	6,900	19
Restaurants	26,800	31	2,400	20
Hotels	30,200	25	2,300	17
Retail stores	78,700	25	4,800	93
Apartment buildings	151,500	20	2,000	61
Hospitals	15,600	13	1,300	3
Nursing homes	9,300	13	600	0.8
Industrial	60,200	9	11,200	61
Mobile homes	29,700	7	2,600	5
Family dwellings	661,400	7	1,200	53

Table 2 lists property losses from Serious Crime for 1975

⁷ The Aerospace Corporation, op. cit., page 9.

In response to the increased interest in arson in Wisconsin, the Crime Information Bureau (CIB) conducted a six-month survey of law enforcement agencies. CIB requested information on the number of arsons known to them:⁹

Table 3:
State Summary
Arsons Known to Wisconsin Law Enforcement Agencies
January - June 1978

	Number of Arsons	Est. Dollar Value of Damage/Loss	Average Value Per Offense
State of Wisconsin*	584	\$6,372,844	\$10,912

*Based on reports received from law enforcement agencies serving 98% of Wisconsin's population.

Table 4 lists losses incurred over the past five years, reported to the Arson Bureau:

Table 4: Arson Losses in Wisconsin 1972-77¹⁰
(in millions of dollars)

1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	Total
\$2.4	\$2.6	\$4.2	\$3.4	\$5.9	\$4.3	\$22.8

The figures do not fully accentuate the fiscal impact that fires in general and arson in particular have had over the past few years. Indeed, within the last five years the total dollar amounts paid out by insurance companies to cover fire losses in this state amounted to almost \$200 million.¹¹ A conservative estimate

⁹ Wisconsin Department of Justice, Crime Information Bureau, Report: Arsons Known to Wisconsin Law Enforcement Agencies January-June 1978, page 1. A complete copy of the CIB survey can be found in Attachment B.

¹⁰ Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation, Arson Bureau, Annual Reports, 1969-77, Madison, Wisconsin.

¹¹ Ibid.

is that 25% or \$50 million of that amount was paid out as a result of arson-related fires. Unlike some other states, the responsibility for investigation of arson in Wisconsin is clearly defined.

Fire chiefs in Wisconsin are responsible¹² for investigating every fire in which damage exceeds \$500 and where the investigation shows that the fire may be of incendiary origin. The fire must be reported to the state fire marshal. Accordingly, the responsibility for fire and arson investigation is as follows:

- a. Fire chiefs are solely responsible for fire investigation.
- b. Fire chiefs and the state fire marshal have joint responsibility for arson detection.
- c. The state fire marshal and local law enforcement have joint responsibility for arson investigation.

Table 5 lists the number of cases handled by the DOJ Arson Bureau and the percent of those which were determined to be caused by arson for 1972-77:

Table 5: State Arson Bureau: Cases/% Arson¹³

<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
450/41%	486/46%	452/50%	533/30%	518/40%	349/47%

¹² Section 165.55, Wisconsin Stats., reads:

"(1) The chief of the fire department or company of every city, village and town in which a fire department or company exists, and where no fire department or company exists, the city mayor, village president or town clerk shall investigate or cause to be investigated the cause, origin and circumstances of every fire occurring in his city, village or town by which property has been destroyed or damaged when the damage exceeds \$500, and on fires of unknown origin he shall especially investigate whether the fire was the result of negligency, accident or design. Where any investigation discloses that the fire may be of incendiary origin, he shall report the same to the state fire marshal."

¹³ Arson Bureau, op. cit., Annual Reports.

To a certain extent, the seriousness of the arson problem has not been lost by the Legislature. During the last session, the penalties for arson of buildings and damage of property by explosives have been increased. (See Attachment A.)

Conclusion

Historically, the attitude of police has often been that arson is a fire problem and that responsibility for arson lies completely within the fire service. Arson, however, is a crime and fire-fighters are not trained to investigate criminal matters. Nationally, current arson arrest and conviction rates are low -- about nine persons arrested, two convicted, and .07 incarcerated, per 100 fires classified as arson.¹⁴ A number of factors may contribute to the problem of addressing arson:

- 1. Nationally and within Wisconsin there is a shortage of trained investigators. For example, since 1947 two additional state fire marshals have been added to the Department of Justice Arson Bureau. There are now nine investigators to cover the state of Wisconsin.
- 2. There are usually no witnesses. Most arson is committed at night.
- 3. There are investigative difficulties due to the destruction caused by the fire and by its extinguishment.
- 4. There is sometimes confusion about the responsibility of the police and the fire service in arson investigations. (This is less of a problem in Wisconsin.)
- 5. There are difficulties in prosecuting arson cases since prosecutors often rely on circumstantial evidence. Once arson has been established, the prosecution centers on implication of the defendant. Again, witnesses are few (unlike robbery or assault), so a complex circumstantial case must usually be constructed. Such a case usually requires greater trial preparation and more experience on the part of the prosecutor. Oftentimes this expertise can not be found in the district attorney's office. Further, the low success rate and high work demands of arson cases make them most unattractive to prosecutors, who are usually already overburdened with cases.

¹⁴ The State of Wisconsin fares better than the national average. In 1977 of 48 arson cases brought by the Arson Bureau to court, 36 or 75% resulted in convictions. Fifteen of those convictions resulted in jail sentences and 21 were put on probation.

The Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice (WCCJ) has allocated money in Program 12-Cross Systems: Subprogram D-Technical Assistance of the 1979 Action Plan to conduct a statewide conference on arson. The mission of the conference is twofold: (1) to identify and assess the problem of arson throughout the state and (2) to identify the appropriate WCCJ responses to the problem of arson. It is anticipated the conference will lead to a constructive and judicious response on the part of WCCJ to the problem of arson. Areas which could be addressed by this agency are:

Training: Increased training for arson investigators and for judges and prosecutors in the technicalities of arson cases.

Personnel: More arson investigators, especially multi-jurisdictional investigators.

Cooperation: Increased cooperation between the Police and Fire Departments to clarify responsibilities. (For example, the City of Madison Police Department works with the Fire Department by way of a special arson squad.)

Education: Greater emphasis on public awareness.

Attachment A

Arson Related Penalties

943.02 Arson of Buildings; Damage of Property by Explosives

- (1) Whoever does any of the following is guilty of a Class B Felony.
 - (a) By means of fire, intentionally damages any building of another without his consent; or
 - (b) By means of fire, intentionally damages any building with intent to defraud an insurer of that building; or
 - (c) By means of explosives, intentionally damages any property of another without his consent.
- (2) In this section "building of another" means a building in which a person other than the actor has a legal or equitable interest which the actor has no right to defeat or impair, even though the actor may also have a legal or equitable interest in the building. Proof that the actor recovered or attempted to recover on a policy of insurance by reason of the fire is relevant but not essential to establish his intent to defraud the insurer.

(For a Class B felony, imprisonment not to exceed 20 years. Prior penalty was fifteen years.)

943.03 Arson of Property Other Than Building

Whoever, by means of fire, intentionally damages any property (other than a building) of another without his consent, if the property is of the value of \$100 or more is guilty of a Class E felony.

(For a Class E felony, a fine not to exceed \$10,000 or imprisonment not to exceed 2 years, or both. Previous penalty was three years and a \$1,000 fine.)

943.04 Arson With Intent to Defraud

Whoever, by means of fire, damages any property (other than a building) with intent to defraud an insurer of that property is guilty of a Class D felony. Proof that the actor recovered or attempted to recover on a policy of insurance by reason of the fire is relevant but not essential to establish his intent to defraud the insurer.

(For a Class D felony, a fine not to exceed \$10,000 or imprisonment not to exceed five years, or both. Prior penalty: \$1,000 fine or imprisonment for not more than five years or both.)



The State of Wisconsin
Department of Justice
Madison

53702

Branson C. La Follette
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ARSONS KNOWN TO WISCONSIN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
JANUARY-JUNE, 1978

A great deal of attention has recently been focused on the crime of arson. This report is in response to that growing interest and contains the results of a Semi-Annual Survey of Wisconsin law enforcement agencies requesting information on the number of arsons known to them. The data collected are based on cooperative efforts among law enforcement agencies, fire departments and the Wisconsin Justice Department's Arson Bureau.

For many years the incidence of seven types of crimes (murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft and motor vehicle theft) has been used in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program as a Crime Index to measure the general extent, fluctuation, distribution and nature of crime in our society. The recently-enacted Appropriations Bill for the United States Department of Justice added arson to the list of Crime Index offenses. Arson information will be collected nationwide on a monthly basis and included as a Crime Index offense.

STATE SUMMARY
ARSONS KNOWN TO WISCONSIN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
JANUARY-JUNE, 1978

	NUMBER OF ARSONS	EST. DOLLAR VALUE OF DAMAGE/LOSS	AVERAGE VALUE PER OFFENSE
STATE OF WISCONSIN*	584	\$6,372,844	\$10,912

*Based on reports received from law enforcement agencies serving 98% of Wisconsin's population.

Crime Information Bureau
Division of Law Enforcement Services
Wisconsin Department of Justice
State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin 53702
(608) 266-7314

CRIME INFORMATION BUREAU
ARSONS: JANUARY-JUNE, 1978

	NUMBER OF ARSONS	EST. DOLLAR VALUE OF DAMAGE/LOSS		NUMBER OF ARSONS	EST. DOLLAR VALUE OF DAMAGE/LOSS
STATE OF WISCONSIN*	584	\$6,372,844	WHITEFISH BAY (S)	0	\$ 0
ALL CITIES	494	\$5,614,883	WHITEWATER	1	\$ 0
CITIES OVER 250,000 (MILWAUKEE)	136	\$ 126,561	WISCONSIN RAPIDS	2	\$ 3,700
			10,000-25,000	97	\$1,341,440
CITIES 50,000-250,000			CITIES 5,000-10,000		
APPLETON	10	\$ 812	ANTIGO	0	\$ 0
GREEN BAY	5	\$ 300	ASHLAND	0	\$ 0
JANESVILLE	11	\$ 15,753	BARABOO	1	\$ 10,000
KENOSHA	12	\$ 3,600	BELOIT TOWN	0	\$ 0
MADISON	23	\$ 537,800	BERLIN	0	\$ 0
OSHKOSH	12	\$ 171,535	BURLINGTON (S)	0	\$ 0
RACINE	44	\$ 74,645	BURLINGTON TOWN (S)	0	\$ 0
WAUWATOSA	4	\$ 2,900	DELANAN	1	\$ 513,000
WEST ALLIS	21	\$ 4,575	ELM GROVE (S)	0	\$ 0
50,000-250,000	142	\$ 811,920	FORT ATKINSON	0	\$ 0
CITIES 25,000-50,000			FOX POINT (S)	0	\$ 0
BELOIT	8	\$ 5,075	GERMANTOWN (S)	3	\$ 1,300
BROOKFIELD (S)	0	\$ 0	GRAFTON (S)	0	\$ 0
EAU CLAIRE (S)	2	\$ 157,260	HALES CORNERS (S)	0	\$ 0
FOND DU LAC	1	\$ 27,000	HARTFORD (S)	9	\$ 50
GREENFIELD (S)	4	\$ 110,100	HUDSON (S)	0	\$ 0
LA CROSSE (S)	3	\$ 6,567	JEFFERSON	0	\$ 0
MANITOWOC	5	\$ 234	KIMBERLY (S)	0	\$ 0
MEMONONIE FALLS (S)	1	\$ 25	LAKE GENEVA	0	\$ 0
NEW BERLIN (S)	3	\$ 335	LITTLE CHUTE (S)	0	\$ 0
SHEBOYGAN	18	\$ 7,365	MADISON TOWN (S)	0	\$ 0
SUPERIOR (S)	16	\$ 147,265	MERRILL	0	\$ 0
UN-MADISON (S)	5	\$ 2,850	MONONA (S)	1	\$ 0
WAUKESHA (S)	5	\$ 98	MONROE	5	\$ 40,100
WAUBAU	0	\$ 0	NEW LONDON	1	\$ 0
25,000-50,000	71	\$ 464,174	OCONOMOWOC TOWN (S)	1	\$ 0
CITIES 10,000-25,000			ONALASKA (S)	2	\$2,300,000
BEAVER DAM	1	\$ 1,546	PLATTEVILLE	0	\$ 0
BROWN DEER (S)	1	\$ 20	PLYMOUTH	1	\$ 100
CALEDONIA TOWN (S)	2	\$ 8,500	PORT WASHINGTON (S)	1	\$ 200
CEDARBURG (S)	0	\$ 0	PORTAGE	0	\$ 0
CHIPPEWA FALLS (S)	0	\$ 0	PRAIRIE DU CHIEN	3	\$ 250
CUDAHY (S)	5	\$ 355	RHINELANDER	0	\$ 0
DE PERE (S)	14	\$ 131,225	RICE LAKE	0	\$ 0
FITCHBURG (S)	4	\$ 0	RIPON	0	\$ 0
FRANKLIN (S)	5	\$ 63,050	RIVER FALLS	0	\$ 0
GLENDALE (S)	0	\$ 0	SHAWANO	0	\$ 0
GREENDALE (S)	1	\$ 13,870	SHEBOYGAN FALLS	0	\$ 0
KAUKAUNA (S)	4	\$ 3,522	SPARTA	0	\$ 0
MARINETTE	1	\$ 50	STOUGHTON (S)	2	\$ 300
MARSHFIELD	0	\$ 0	STURGEON BAY	0	\$ 0
MENASHA (S)	4	\$1,000,100	TOMAH	0	\$ 0
MENASHA TOWN (S)	0	\$ 0	UN-PARKSIDE (S)	1	\$ 0
MEMONONIE	1	\$ 7	UN-RIVER FALLS	1	\$ 15
MEQUON (S)	3	\$ 140	UN-WHITEWATER	0	\$ 0
MIDDLETON (S)	0	\$ 0	WAUPUN	0	\$ 0
MT. PLEASANT TOWN (S)	1	\$ 250	WESTON TOWN	0	\$ 0
MUSKEGO (S)	2	\$ 60	5,000-10,000	33	\$2,865,315
NEENAH (S)	13	\$ 150	CITIES UNDER 5,000		
OAK CREEK (S)	0	\$ 0	ALGOMA	0	\$ 0
OCONOMOWOC (S)	1	\$ 500	ALTOONA (S)	0	\$ 0
SHOREWOOD (S)	1	\$ 800	BAYSIDE (S)	0	\$ 0
SOUTH MILWAUKEE (S)	6	\$ 0	BLACK RIVER FALLS	1	\$ 503
ST. FRANCIS (S)	2	\$ 150	BLOOMER (S)	2	\$ 300
STEVENS POINT	8	\$ 93,025	BRILLION (S)	0	\$ 0
SUN PRAIRIE (S)	3	\$ 300	BRODHEAD	0	\$ 0
TWO RIVERS	1	\$ 0	CHENEQUA (S)	0	\$ 0
UN-EAU CLAIRE (S)	0	\$ 0	CHILTON (S)	0	\$ 0
UN-MILWAUKEE (S)	1	\$ 50	CLINTONVILLE	0	\$ 0
UN-OSHKOSH (S)	2	\$ 0	COLUMBUS	0	\$ 0
WATERTOWN	2	\$ 20,050	COMBINED LOCKS (S)	0	\$ 0
WEST BEND (S)	5	\$ 20	DARLINGTON	1	\$ 600
			DELAFIELD (S)	0	\$ 0
			DELANAN TOWN	4	\$ 1,500

* - Based on reports received from law enforcement agencies serving 98% of Wisconsin's population.
(S) - Suburban City.

CRIME INFORMATION BUREAU
ARSONS: JANUARY-JUNE, 1978

	NUMBER OF ARSONS	EST. DOLLAR VALUE OF DAMAGE/LOSS		NUMBER OF ARSONS	EST. DOLLAR VALUE OF DAMAGE/LOSS
DEVILS LAKE ST. TP.	0	\$ 0	OSHAUEN CO SO	0	\$ 0
DOUGEVILLE	0	\$ 0	PACIFIC CO SO	3	\$ 1,000
EAST TROY	0	\$ 0	ST. CROIX CO SO	0	\$ 0
EAST TROY TOWN	0	\$ 0	WASHINGTON CO SO	4	\$ 1,400
EDGEFION	0	\$ 0	WAUKESHA CO SO	DNA	DNA
ELKHORN	0	\$ 0	WINNEBAGO CO SO	5	\$ 150,326
ELROY	0	\$ 0	SUSURBAN AREA SHERIFFS	43	\$ 457,564
EVANSVILLE	0	\$ 0			
HARTLAND (S)	0	\$ 0	RURAL AREA SHERIFFS		
HORIZON	4	\$ 250	ADAMS CO SO	0	\$ 0
KEMANTEE	0	\$ 0	ASHLAND CO SO	1	\$ 600
KIEL	0	\$ 0	BAKON CO SO	0	\$ 0
LADYSMITH	0	\$ 0	BAYFIELD CO SO	0	\$ 0
LAKE DELTON	0	\$ 0	BUFFALO CO SO	1	\$ 12,000
LAKE HILLS	0	\$ 0	BURNETT CO SO	1	\$ 0
LANCASTER	0	\$ 0	CLARK CO SO	0	\$ 0
HAUSTON	0	\$ 0	COLUMBIA CO SO	0	\$ 0
HAYVILLE	0	\$ 0	CRAWFORD CO SO	0	\$ 0
HCFARLAND (S)	0	\$ 0	DODGE CO SO	4	\$ 30,450
MEDFORD	0	\$ 0	DOOR CO SO	1	\$ 0
HILTON	1	\$ 2,000	DUNN CO SO	1	\$ 4,000
MINERAL POINT	0	\$ 0	FLORENCE CO SO	0	\$ 0
MINOCQUA	0	\$ 0	FOND DU LAC CO SO	3	\$ 0
MONTELO	0	\$ 0	FOREST CO SO	1	\$ 5,000
NOBINEE	0	\$ 0	GRANT CO SO	0	\$ 0
MUKWAGO (S)	0	\$ 0	GREEN CO SO	0	\$ 0
NEILLSVILLE	0	\$ 0	GREEN LAKE CO SO	0	\$ 0
NEW HOLSTEIN (S)	0	\$ 0	IGONA CO SO	0	\$ 0
NEW LISBON	0	\$ 0	IRON CO SO	0	\$ 0
NEW RICHMOND (S)	0	\$ 0	JACKSON CO SO	2	\$ 15,000
NORTH FOND DU LAC	0	\$ 0	JEFFERSON CO SO	1	\$ 100
OCONTO	0	\$ 0	JUNEAU CO SO	0	\$ 0
OCONTO FALLS	0	\$ 0	KEMANTEE CO SO	1	\$ 20,000
OREGON (S)	0	\$ 0	LAFAYETTE CO SO	1	\$ 1,000
PARK FALLS	0	\$ 0	LANGLADE CO SO	0	\$ 0
PESHIGO	0	\$ 0	LINCOLN CO SO	1	\$ 0
PEWAUKEE (S)	1	\$ 100	MANITOWOC CO SO	0	\$ 0
PRESCOTT	0	\$ 0	MARATHON CO SO	4	\$ 8,200
REEDSBURG	0	\$ 0	MARINETTE CO SO	1	\$ 400
RICHLAND CENTER	0	\$ 0	MARQUETTE CO SO	0	\$ 0
ROTHSCHILD	0	\$ 0	MENOMINEE CO SO	DNA	DNA
SAUK-PRAIRIE	0	\$ 0	MONROE CO SO	DNA	DNA
SCHOFIELD	0	\$ 0	OCONTO CO SO	0	\$ 0
SHOREWOOD HILLS (S)	0	\$ 0	ONEIDA CO SO	1	\$ 20,000
STANLEY (S)	0	\$ 0	PEPIN CO SO	0	\$ 0
STATE PROT. SERV. (S)	0	\$ 0	PIERCE CO SO	0	\$ 0
STODDARD	0	\$ 0	POLK CO SO	1	\$ 1,000
STURTEVANT (S)	0	\$ 0	PORTAGE CO SO	7	\$ 30,000
SUMMIT TOWN (S)	DNA	DNA	PRICE CO SO	0	\$ 0
THIENSVILLE (S)	0	\$ 0	RICHLAND CO SO	DNA	DNA
TOHAJIAN	0	\$ 0	ROCK CO SO	1	\$ 0
TWIN LAKES (S)	0	\$ 0	RUSK CO SO	0	\$ 0
UNION GROVE (S)	1	\$ 220	SAUK CO SO	8	\$ 61,315
VIROQUA	0	\$ 0	SAWYER CO SO	0	\$ 0
WASHBURN	0	\$ 0	SHAWANO CO SO	0	\$ 0
WATERLOO	0	\$ 0	SHEBOYGAN CO SO	0	\$ 0
WAUPACA	0	\$ 0	TAYLOR CO SO	0	\$ 0
WEST MILWAUKEE (S)	0	\$ 0	TREMPEALEAU CO SO	2	\$ 29,000
WISCONSIN DELLS	0	\$ 0	VERNON CO SO	1	\$ 5,500
UNDER 5,000	15	\$ 5,473	VILAS CO SO	0	\$ 0
SUBURBAN AREA SHERIFFS			WALWORTH CO SO	3	\$ 4,312
BROWN CO SO	6	\$ 1,220	WASHBURN CO SO	0	\$ 0
CALUMET CO SO	0	\$ 0	WAUPACA CO SO	1	\$ 500
CHIPPEWA CO SO	3	\$ 75,200	WAUSHARA CO SO	2	\$ 40,000
DANE CO SO	5	\$ 7,595	WOOD CO SO	1	\$ 12,000
DOUGLAS CO SO	1	\$ 25	RURAL AREA SHERIFFS	47	\$ 300,377
EAU CLAIRE CO SO	0	\$ 0			
KENOSHA CO SO	11	\$ 215,229	ALL SHERIFFS' OFFICES	90	\$ 757,961
LA CROSSE CO SO	0	\$ 0			
MILWAUKEE CO SO	4	\$ 5,308			
OUTAGAMIE CO SO	1	\$ 200			

(S) - Suburban City.

CRIME INFORMATION BUREAU
ARSONS: JANUARY-JUNE, 1978
COUNTIES AND REGIONS

	NUMBER OF ARSONS	EST. DOLLAR VALUE OF DAMAGE/LOSS	AVERAGE VALUE PER OFFENSE		NUMBER OF ARSONS	EST. DOLLAR VALUE OF DAMAGE/LOSS	AVERAGE VALUE PER OFFENSE
STATE OF WISCONSIN*	564	\$6,372,844	\$ 10,912	SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN			
NORTHWEST WISCONSIN				BUFFALO COUNTY	1	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
ASHLAND COUNTY	1	\$ 600	\$ 600	COLUMBIA COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0
BARRON COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0	CRAWFORD COUNTY	3	\$ 250	\$ 83
BAYFIELD COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0	DANE COUNTY	41	\$ 540,835	\$ 12,764
BURNETT COUNTY	1	\$ 0	\$ 0	DOUGLAS COUNTY	9	\$ 32,246	\$ 3,583
CHIPPEWA COUNTY	5	\$ 75,500	\$ 15,100	GRANT COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0
CLARK COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0	GREEN COUNTY	5	\$ 40,100	\$ 8,020
DOUGLAS COUNTY	17	\$ 147,290	\$ 8,664	IOWA COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0
DUNN COUNTY	2	\$ 4,007	\$ 2,003	JACKSON COUNTY	3	\$ 15,503	\$ 5,168
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY	2	\$ 157,260	\$ 78,630	JEFFERSON COUNTY	3	\$ 20,150	\$ 6,717
IRON COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0	LA CROSSE COUNTY	5	\$2,306,567	\$461,313
PEPIN COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0	LAFAYETTE COUNTY	2	\$ 1,600	\$ 800
PIERCE COUNTY	1	\$ 15	\$ 15	MONROE COUNTY**	0	\$ 0	\$ 0
POLK COUNTY	1	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	RICHLAND COUNTY**	0	\$ 0	\$ 0
PRICE COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0	ROCK COUNTY	21	\$ 22,828	\$ 1,087
RUEK COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0	SAUK COUNTY	9	\$ 71,315	\$ 7,924
ST. CROIX COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0	TREMPEALEAU COUNTY	2	\$ 29,000	\$ 14,500
SAWYER COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0	VERNON COUNTY	1	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
TAYLOR COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0	SOUTHWEST TOTAL	107	\$3,105,894	\$ 29,027
WASHBURN COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0				
NORTHWEST TOTAL	30	\$ 385,672	\$ 12,856	SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN			
NORTHEAST WISCONSIN				KENOSHA COUNTY	24	\$ 218,829	\$ 9,118
ADAMS COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0	MILWAUKEE COUNTY	191	\$ 327,829	\$ 1,716
BROWN COUNTY	25	\$ 132,745	\$ 5,310	OSHAUKEE COUNTY	4	\$ 340	\$ 85
CALUMET COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0	RACINE COUNTY	51	\$ 84,616	\$ 1,659
DOOR COUNTY	1	\$ 0	\$ 0	WALWORTH COUNTY	9	\$ 518,812	\$ 57,646
FLORENCE COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0	WASHINGTON COUNTY	21	\$ 2,770	\$ 132
FOND DU LAC COUNTY	4	\$ 27,000	\$ 6,750	WAUKESHA COUNTY**	14	\$ 1,118	\$ 80
FOREST COUNTY	1	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	SOUTHEAST TOTAL	314	\$1,154,314	\$ 3,676
GREEN LAKE COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0				
JUNEAU COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0				
KENAUKEE COUNTY	1	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000				
LANGLADE COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0				
LINCOLN COUNTY	1	\$ 0	\$ 0				
MANITOWOC COUNTY	6	\$ 234	\$ 39				
MARATHON COUNTY	4	\$ 8,200	\$ 2,050				
MARINETTE COUNTY	2	\$ 450	\$ 225				
MARQUETTE COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0				
MENOMINEE COUNTY**	DNA	DNA	DNA				
OCONTO COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0				
ONEIDA COUNTY	1	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000				
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY	15	\$ 4,534	\$ 302				
PORTAGE COUNTY	10	\$ 123,025	\$ 12,303				
SHAWANO COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0				
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY	19	\$ 7,465	\$ 393				
VILAS COUNTY	0	\$ 0	\$ 0				
WAUPACA COUNTY	2	\$ 500	\$ 250				
WAUSHARA COUNTY	2	\$ 40,000	\$ 20,000				
WINNEBAGO COUNTY	36	\$1,322,111	\$ 36,725				
WOOD COUNTY	3	\$ 15,700	\$ 5,233				
NORTHEAST TOTAL	133	\$1,726,954	\$ 12,985				

* - Based on reports received from law enforcement agencies serving 88% of Wisconsin's population.

** - Complete data not available.

DNA - Data not available.

This report does not include information for the Menominee County Sheriff's Office, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, the Richland County Sheriff's Office, the Waushara County Sheriff's Office and the Sherris Township Police Department.

Table 2: Property Losses from Serious Crimes, 1975⁸

Offense	Property Loss (\$ millions)	Average Loss per Offense (\$)
Robbery	142	321
Burglary	1,181	391
Larceny	816	156
Auto Theft	841 ^a	1,246
Arson		
Incendiary and suspicious	616	3,294
Incendiary and suspicious plus 1/2 unknown cause	1,284	2,558

^a 69% was recovered.

Other national statistics to consider when looking at the problem of arson are:

Of those arrested for arson, 59% were under 18.

Of those arrested for arson, 90% were male.

Of those arrested for arson, 80% of the subjects are White.

In brief, the typical arson arrestee was young, White, and male.

The motives for arson are quite diverse. They include financial profit, revenge, spite, jealousy, crime concealment, intimidation, vandalism, excitement, pyromania and fraud.

Arson in Wisconsin

Nationally arson has been referred to as a 'tip of the iceberg' crime. The public is exposed to an isolated arson. These isolated fires generally do not make a great impression. In the aggregate, however, they constitute a serious problem. This same assessment may be made about the problem of arson in Wisconsin.

⁸ The Aerospace Corporation, op. cit., page 9.

END