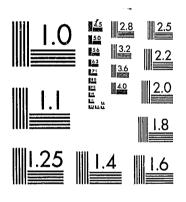
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1977

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION ARSON BUREAU

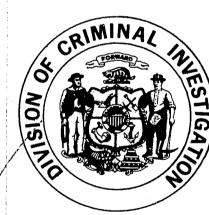
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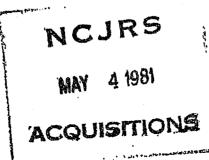
Prepared by the
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Bronson C. La Follette, Attorney General

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FRANK A. MEYERS, ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
STATE FIRE MARSHAL



SECTION I - ARSON BUREAU REPORT

ORGANIZATION:

The Administrator of the Division of Criminal Investigation is State Fire Marshal. Operational activities are assigned to the Arson Bureau which is one of the four bureaus of the Division. The Bureau consists of a director and nine deputies who are located throughout the state as follows:

Philip C. Culp, Director	Madison
Henry C. Fiege Eldon L. Fremming Gerald Haffner Kermit R. Krupka William Lundy Leslie A. Meyer Joseph P. Murray James Olsen Paul R. Sainsbury	Eau Claire Park Falls Milwaukee Milwaukee Madison Weyauwega Appleton Milwaukee Madison
•	

The headquarters office of the State Arson Bureau is located at 123 West Washington Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin, 53702, 608-266-1671.

FUNCTIONS:

The Arson Bureau serves as a supplement to the fire service and local law enforcement. Services provided include:

- a. Investigative assistance on fires of known or suspected incendiary origin;
- b. Investigative assistance on bombings and explosions of suspected criminal origin;
- c. Investigative assistance on fatal fires of undetermined origin;
- d. Training in fire and arson investigation.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIRE AND ARSON INVESTIGATION:

Fire chiefs are responsible* for investigating every fire in which damage exceeds \$500 and, where the investigation shows that the fire may be of incendiary origin, that 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.

*Section 165.55, Stats., reads:

"165.55(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 negligence, 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."

INVESTIGATIONS:

During 1977, the Arson Bureau received 431¹ requests for assistance from local units of government. These requests actually covered over 470 separate fires since some requests covered more than one incident. This is a 15% decrease from 1976. The decrease in requests does not necessarily indicate a decline of arson in the state. There has been increased emphasis on fire and arson investigation at the local level and many local units are now handling cases which would previously have been referred to the Arson Bureau.

Eighty-two requests were declined for a variety of reasons but the over-riding reason was workload. There has been no significant change in this figure for the past three years.

Footnotes correspond to numbered tables in Appendix

The fact that an investigation was made does not necessarily indicate that the incident was of criminal origin. During 1977, about 47% of the cases investigated were found to be incendiary, 37% accidental, 10% undetermined, and the remaining juvenile, pending, and others. There was an 8% increase in the number of fires found to be incendiary after investigation.

INCENDIARY LOSSES:

Based on latest available estimates, the damage caused by fires, explosions, and bombings of known or probable incendiary origin investigated by the Arson Bureau exceeds \$4.3 million. The loss was down nearly \$1.5 million from 1976 but it is still slightly higher than the five year average.³

CASE DISPOSITIONS:

As a result of Arson Bureau investigations, lll adult charges or other dispositions were made. 83% of the charges were for fire related crimes. The remainder were charges incidental to the arson investigation. 4 The apprehension rate on cases definitely determined to be arson exceeded 48% during 1977.

Forty-eight cases were finally adjudicated in 1977. Nearly 83% resulted in convictions. 42% of those convicted were actually incarcerated with the average sentence being about 7 years. The remainder were placed on probation with the average probation being about 3 years.⁵

In addition, 28 juveniles were apprehended for setting fires in 1977. Four had set fires incidental to play and there was no malicious intent to set the fire. In most of these cases, strong parental supervision was recommended. The remaining 24 juveniles deliberately set fire and had they been adults, they would have been charged with arson or a related offense. Most of these cases were disposed of by reference to the juvenile courts.

MOTIVES:

Although motive is not an element of the crime of arson, the Bureau attempts to establish and classify motive in every incendiary fire. Most prosecutors require some evidence of motive before accepting an arson case and the classification of motive also has value in spotting trends. During 1977, the Bureau was able to develop evidence of motives in over 60% of the arsons investigated. Increases were noted in fraud fires, pyromania fires, and vandalism fires. A significant decrease was noted in spite/revenge fires.⁶

FATAL FIRES:

The Arson Bureau is frequently requested to cooperate in the investigation of fatal fires because of the possibility of a fire being set to commit or cover evidence of a homicide. During 1977, the Bureau investigated 25 fatal fires involving 40 fatalities. Six of the fires were determined to be homicide related incendiary fires. In one case, the cause of the fire could not be determined and the remaining fires were all established to be accidental.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION:

During 1977, the Bureau conducted investigations in 65 of the 72 counties in the state. There are 10 counties in the state having populations over 100,000. These 10 counties account for 55% of the total population and 40% of the requests for investigation. By contrast, there are 48 counties in the state having populations under 50,000. These 48 counties have 13% of the population but they also accounted for 40% of the requests for investigation.

Based on this pattern of requests, it is apparent that arson is a rural as well as urban problem in this state. 8

TRAINING:

During 1977, the Arson Bureau conducted 31 training sessions for over 1,200 students. Subjects covered included fire investigation, arson recognition, and basic arson investigation. In addition, the Bureau co-sponsored the Annual Wisconsin Arson Seminar which was attended by approximately 200 police and fire officials. This represents a 55% increase in the number of training sessions offered and a 36% increase in the number of students attending.

Footnotes correspond to numbered tables in Appendix.

SECTION II - APPENDIX

TABLE 1 INVESTIGATIONS

	<u>1976</u>	1977
Fires Explosions Bombings Unfounded Complaints TOTAL	436 4 3 1 444	338 7 4 0 349
TABLE 2 CAUSES		
Incendiary Accidental Juveniles(no malicious i Undetermined Other Pending TOTAL	184 172 ntent) 6 61 4 17 444	163 131 2 35 0 18

TABLE 3 INCENDIARY LOSSES

1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
\$2,600,000	\$4,200,000	\$3,400,000	\$5,900,000	\$4,300,000

TABLE 4 CASE DISPOSITIONS

	1976	1977
Arson	60	86
Criminal Damage Negligent handling of	U	. 2
burning material	6	4
Homicide/Attempted Homicide	1	3
Other crimes Committed to Mental	31	11
Institutions	6	4
Other dispositions	1	1
TOTAL	105	

TABLE 5
SENTENCING

	<u>1976</u>	<u> 1977</u>
Cases Adjudicated	34	48
Dismissed-defendant committed Dismissed-lack of evidence Defendant found not guilty Convicted	1. 4 4	5 4 3
Sentenced to Prison Suspended Sentence	18	15
& Probation	7	21
TABLE 6 MOTIVES		
Fraud Political	16 0	20 0
Mental Pyromania Psychopathic Suicide Vandalism Spite Crime Cover-up Vanity Unknown TOTAL	6 22 1 18 32 12 1 76 184	11 16 0 27 18 12 0 59 163
TABLE 7 FATAL FIRES		
(By Cause)		
Accidental - various causes Incendiary - Homicide Incendiary - Suicide Unknown - undetermined TOTAL	28 3 1 6 38	18 6 0 <u>1</u> 25
(By Ages)		
0-10 11-20 21-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 61-70 71 and over	24 5 7 4 5 0 4 3	12 8 3 5 2 2 2 6 40

TABLE 8
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

COUNTY	1976	1977	COUNTY	1976	1977
Adams	1	3	Marinette	7	12
Ashland	ī	5	Marguette	ó	1
Barron	9	2	Menominee	3	Ō
Bayfield	4	3	Milwaukee	64	52
Brown	11	21	Monroe	4	2
Buffalo	2	0	Oconto	9	ī
Burnett	1	4	Oneida	6	4
Calumet	0	2	Outagamie	15	22
Chippewa	7	5	Ozaukee	6	10
Clark	10	1	Pepin	1	1
Columbia	6	10	Pierce	5	2
Crawford	4	3	Polk	6	3
Dane	15	21	Portage	9	3 1
Dodge	13	4	Price	11	7
Door	1	0	Racine	25	11
Douglas	. 4	4	Richland	2	1
Dunn	5	14	Rock	7	1 5
Eau Claire	5	6	Rusk	7	4
Florence	0	3	St. Croix	4	7
Fond du Lac	7	7	Sauk	11	10
Forest	3	3	Sawyer	9	5
Grant	3	9	Shawano	7	5
Green	2	2	Sheboygan	12	6
Green Lake	3 2 2	1	Taylor	2	4 3 2
Iowa	2	3	Trempealeau	1	3
Iron	2	1	Vernon	2	
Jackson	2	3	Vilas	8	0
Jefferson	10	4	Walworth	10	11
Juneau	2	6	Washburn	4	3
Kenosha	8	12	Washington	9	7
Kewaunee	0	0	Waukesha	20	18
LaCrosse	6	2	Waupaca	4	5
Lafayette	6	4	Waushara	6	11
Langlade	9 2	6	Winnebago	28	13
Lincoln	2	0	Wood	8	0
Manitowoc	9	3			
Marathon	11	5			
		TOTA	L	518	431

SECTION III

1977

WISCONSIN FIRE LOSS STATISTICS

Prepared by the

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, LABOR AND HUMAN RELATIONS

DIVISION OF SAFETY AND BUILDINGS

Zel Rice Secretary

John Wenning, Jr. Division Administrator

WISCONSIN FIRE LOSS STATISTICS

INTRODUCTION:

Pursuant to Section 101.141, Wisconsin Statutes, Wisconsin fire loss statistics are compiled by the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations from reports submitted by the insurance industry.

1977 STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- --8,720 fire losses were reported resulting in damage of \$53.5 million. 90.38% of this loss was covered by insurance.
- -- The 8,720 fire losses reported represents a decrease of 33.3% from 1976.
- -- The total dollar loss attributed to fire increased 11.46% from 1976.
- --The number of incendiary and suspicious fires decreased 22.4% during the year and the related dollar loss decreased 4.28%.
- --18% of all fires were attributed to lightning.
- --11.1% of all fires were attributed to defective wiring.
- --16% of all fires involving 28.1% of the total fire losses were listed as being of undetermined origin.
- --29% of all fires and 22% of the total fire loss involved 1 to 4 family dwellings.
- --Barn fires decreased 38% from 1976.
- --Vehicle fires decreased 14% and the dollar loss from such fires decreased 18%.

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FIRE LOSSES IN WISCONSIN by TYPE OF PROPERTY

TYPE OF PROPERTY			Number of Fires		Amount of Damage		Insurance Paid	
		1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977	
-10-	Apartments Amusement Arcases, Billiard Parlors Boats Boat Houses, Docks, Marina Bowling Lanes Broadcasting: Radio, Television Business Establishments, Other Churches, Church Properties Club Houses, Lodges, YMCA Coal Yards, Lumber Yards Construction Company & Equipment Dairy Products Mfg. Dry Cleaning, Laundries: Commercial Dry Cleaning, Laundries: Self Service Dwellings-Urban (1-4 family) Educational Institutions Elevators, Grain Storage, Feed Mills Factories Filling Stations, Fuel Depots FARM: Barns Brooders, Poultry Houses Dwellings - Rural Graneries, Silos Hay, Straw, Grain, etc. Hog Houses Milk Houses	1976 260 1 15 3 21 8 57 24 27 4 13 4 3 10 3,453 26 12 91 9 772 6 3,876 52 56 19 230	1977 223 1 13 2 13 5 86 18 9 10 7 4 2 7 2,545 20 17 78 20 477 9 2,305 75 32 12 72	\$ 2,070,297 894 27,799 49,631 349,250 15,305 1,186,222 354,731 501,566 2,589 51,179 2,589 2,759 30,088 10,858,826 694,478 252,125 2,135,260 51,798 8,030,976 31,462 8,996,571 78,741 65,357 33,428 48,613		1976 \$ 1,907,554 844 23,776 43,425 259,198 15,108 1,055,976 331,139 392,964 2,274 48,966 2,274 2,609 27,113 10,063,429 681,595 249,581 1,623,622 35,465 6,990,002 30,021 7,806,725 70,025 78,386 30,777 45,398	\$ 2,182,415 272 16,859 1,601 102,424 2,708 789,769 281,743 42,703 99,401 21,561 3,877 11,123 17,240 10,767,606 1,742,944 800,356 3,814,311 111,586 5,237,042 92,507 8,703,750 177,206	
	Livestock Machinery, etc. Out Buildings, etc. Tractors, Trucks	661 822 119 440	169 371 55 402	409,383 433,800 477,761 289,145	149,648 334,848 355,377 362,005	392,516 402,980 384,097 274,392	143,106 325,658 304,571 344,030	

(continued on next page)

TYPE OF PROPERTY

TYPE OF PROPERTY	Number of Fires		0	Amount of Damage		Insurance Paid	
	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977	
Garages - Private Garages - Commercial Halls, Meeting Houses Hospitals, Sanitariums Hotels INSTITUTIONS: PUBLIC BUILDINGS City	333 12 0 2 5	316 11 2 5 13	918,658 103,227 -0- 7,140 22,230	1,137,765 200,531 2,829 57,481 139,798	751,375 91,535 -0- 6,040 21,434	941,872 184,918 2,779 56,416 136,925	
County Federal State Other Meat Packing, Food Processing Mills - Lumber Mills - Paper Motels Nursing, Convalescent Homes Off Premises Personal Property Offices, Commercial Buildings Parks, Campsites Power Plants Restaurants, Supper Clubs, etc. Rooming Houses, Fraternities, etc. Seasonal Dwelling - Private Seasonal Dwelling - Commercial Sheds, Shacks, etc. Storage, Warehouses Stores, Shops Supermarkets	13 5 0 7 4 11 13 4 24 5 53 61 2 0 75 1 79 11 90 70 98 11	4 0 7 3 6 4 0 15 47 3 0 83 69 15 78 69 99 2	41,313 68,294 -0- 90,135 4,444 82,144 209,969 216,383 85,779 29,457 37,636 409,265 28,769 -0- 1,203,160 1,624 568,892 115,614 313,927 1,112,432 1,803,958 77,237	49,450 -00- 183,933 19,330 220,213 227,772 -0- 348,289 806 5,504 844,013 13,817 -0- 1,436,517 47,307 548,539 113,314 427,319 1,510,462 2,870,914 1,994	37,024 68,194 -0- 85,613 4,244 75,944 165,787 215,395 84,069 20,678 21,766 349,780 28,299 -0- 1,028,670 1,524 493,285 102,431 255,103 964,767 1,607,550 72,034	46,951 -0- -0- 177,695 18,071 181,963 142,374 -0- 289,042 756 5,339 868,976 13,526 -0- 1,138,194 46,912 471,970 84,734 432,483 1,363,499 2,769,407 1,894	

(continued on next page)

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TYPE OF PROPERTY

TYPE OF PROPERTY		Number of Fires		Amount of Damage		Insurance Paid	
Taverns	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977	
Tents Theaters, Arenas, Auditoriums Trailers, House Trailers - Other Vehicles - Private Vehicles - Commercial Service & Repair Shops Snowmobiles Miscellaneous TOTAL	116 0 1 175 8 531 13 40 12 101	84 3 2 167 9 463 3 25 4 24	1,017,711 -0- 1,158 912,358 10,587 583,663 38,829 334,949 19,829 62,543 \$48,075,643 \$	1,169,000 1,427 22,871 953,598 15,725 494,443 18,141 544,347 2,630 39,306	956,880 -0- 1,110 770,987 9,901 573,361 37,809 266,466 17,669 46,938 \$42,515,709	1,010,507 1,254 13,508 840,926 15,525 475,634 17,791 414,521 2,163 37,459	

FIRE LOSSES IN WISCONSIN by CAUSE OF FIRE

CAUSE OF FIRE		Number of Fires		Amount of Damage		Insurance Paid	
		1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977
-13-	Accidental, Miscellaneous Ashes, Embers, Rekindle Bonfires, Grass, Rubbish Candles, Lanterns Children at play, Matches Chimney Fires Christmas Trees, Lights, Floods Clothes Dryers Collisions, Wrecks, Overturns Cooking Fires, Burner Carelessness Electric: Fencers Heaters Heat Lamps Heating Pads, Blankets Irons, Mangles Light Bulbs, Lamps, Fixtures Motors (Defective) Radios Refrigerators, Freezers Stoves Television Toasters Washing Machines Other Appliances - Heavy Other Appliances - Light	53 53 139 103 238 286 5 85 9 735 0 36 16 23 64 33 163 64 33 10 30 46	51 39 108 88 170 276 7 56 7 528 56 65 22 28 2 75 56 11 29 117 109 26 12 30 52	282,429 303,473 512,356 268,558 967,497 1,058,332 18,773 100,241 4,081 1,184,159 -0- 156,205 25,346 58,629 6,677 463,939 129,798 7,202 73,816 365,724 203,281 23,240 10,047 74,265 120,309	512,884 367,977 758,337 299,915 1,368,614 895,042 32,469 317,644 14,155 1,606,523 2,632 486,586 192,177 70,340 680 420,057 428,611 3,023 91,741 699,242 406,521 34,240 5,072 88,231 106,739	263,926 297,303 444,516 260,262 934,638 940,966 18,530 88,632 3,362 1,102,439 -0- 147,631 15,579 56,826 6,677 308,167 79,231 7,145 60,364 344,648 190,683 21,915 9,847 72,850 138,314	485,523 353,797 543,343 279,384 1,265,499 812,389 31,139 306,204 13,955 1,041,750 2,304 458,989 160,504 68,469 444 411,523 333,189 2,843 88,886 626,581 392,519 27,126 4,478 76,147 105,252
	Wiring (Defective) Other - Surges, Accidents	983 81	967 66	8,381,311 342,376	10,365,892 224,834	7,277,849 301,381	9,913,829 219,049

(continued on next page)

CAUSE OF FIRE

CAUSE OF FIRE	Number of Fires		Amount of Damage		Insurance Paid	
EXPLOSIONS: Boilers, Heaters	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977
Dust Dynamite, etc. Flammable Liquids Gas - Natural, LP Exposure Fire Places Fireworks Flammable Liquid Accidents, fumes Gas Leak Gas Stove, Heaters Gasoline Engines, etc. Grease, Tar, etc. Heating Plants (Defective) Heating Plants (Explosions) Incendiary, Suspicious, Vandalism Incinerators Industrial Accidents Lawnmowers Lightning Matches (Carelessness) Material in Contact Open Flame Smokers Carelessness Sparks Sparks Sparks-Locomotives Spontaneous Ignition Steam Pipes (continued on next page)	17 3 0 4 78 115 176 0 65 12 24 10 157 119 456 1 18 15 4,980 22 76 0 429 177 7 84	21 3 3 11 48 98 99 2 72 44 22 7 55 185 71 354 16 13 1,574 28 36 315 121 2 100 6	265,502 71,100	129,543 4,676 97,430 105,070 537,972 645,649 436,112 34,856 2,148,898 375,670 216,445 39,454 109,028 1,104,949 294,431 4,236,241 762,299 94,463 3,449 1,055,870 98,312 177,660 41,195 1,481,699 973,424 44,654 1,054,559 5,112	40,438 5,144 -0- 15,576 236,110 254,430 482,176 -0- 515,183 95,765 90,328 12,235 17,278 660,597 394,107 3,658,415 347 86,583 11,679 2,405,978 108,264 130,165 -0- 1,609,219 714,244 53,796 1,098,781 58,942	104,745 4,212 96,436 86,462 486,329 729,420 462,047 34,706 2,513,552 326,412 198,629 38,124 105,995 978,093 252,047 3,978,065 567,695 87,741 3,171 977,005 93,478 153,645 40,592 1,437,997 748,666 27,162 937,790 4,847

CAUSE	0F	FIRE
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10	CAUSE OF FIRE							
1000-C86314	CAUSE OF FIRE	RE Numl		0	ount of age		Insurance Paid	
4-78	Stoves, Space Heaters, etc.	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977	
	Torches - Blow, Welding, etc. VEHICLES: Exhaust-Backfire	142 10 57	183 32 47	750,610 84,432 246,764	1,186,618 264,311 192,443	570,553 76,851 237,755	1,101,403 207,451 191,730	
	Fuel System, Carburators Wiring, Ignition Other-Miscellaneous Snowmobiles Unknown or Undetormined	536 69	33 125 416 106 1 1,407	86,813 143,548 310,271 93,711 2,370 16,712,875	74,699 151,789 356,990 184,222 324	85,531 140,108 304,867 90,638 2,220	67,365 147,154 351,319 175,144 324	
-15-	TOTAL	13,081	8,720	\$48,075,643 \$	15,063,205 53,583,899	14,857,455 \$42,515,709	13,385,056 \$48,427,132	