

FACT:

- Fire departments responded to an estimated 51,840 intentional structure fire annually during 2003-2006.
- These fires resulted in 377 civilian deaths.
- These fires resulted in 1,115 civilian injuries.
- These fires resulted in an estimated \$898.1 million direct property damage.

For more information contact:

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INTENTIONAL FIRES AND ARSON



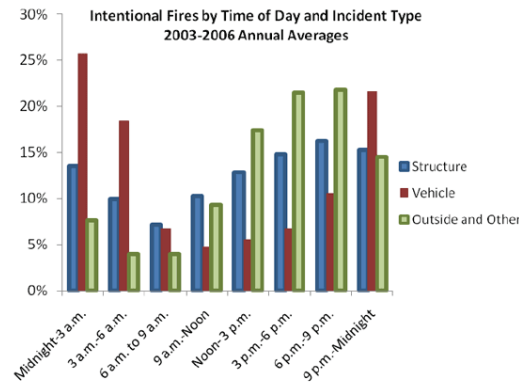
Promotion, Prevention, Protection





- Although 3 of every 4 intentional fires are started outside, most of the intentional fire casualties and property loss resulted from structure fires.
- Half of all intentional structure fires are started in the home. These fires resulted in 85% of the civilian deaths, 82% of the civilian injuries and 64% of the direct property damage from intentional structure fires.

- The bedroom is the leading area of origin for intentional home structure fires while bathrooms are the leading areas in public properties such as stores, offices or schools.



According to FBI statistics:

- 18% of arson offenses were cleared by arrest or exceptional means
- In 2006, 49% of arrestees were under the age of 18
- An estimated 5-7% of arson offenses result in convictions.
- Most often, fires are set during the night, making it difficult for investigators to find an eye witness.

What Can You Do?

Start with your own home.

- Look over the area outside your home and consider what could be easily ignited and then grow into a larger fire. Clean the area. Make it harder for people to find things to set on fire.
- Remove dead branches and overgrown plants and vegetation. Two-thirds of all reported intentional fires are stated in outdoor items like trash or brush.
- Pay particular attention to any large items on your property, such as abandoned cars. A large object can mean a large fire that can easily spread to a neighboring building. One out of every three intentionally set fires is an intentionally set car fire.
- Lock, shutter, and board up vacant buildings and homes to make it harder for intruders to enter. This is especially important for a house or apartment building that has been vacant for a long time because the longer a building sits vacant, the better the chance of it being discovered by would-be fire setters.
- Clean up overgrown plants and vegetation on vacant property just as you would your own home.
- Watch for kids! Half the people arrested for arson are under the age of 18.
- Get to know the families and kids in your neighborhood or apartment building.
- Report suspicious activity to your local police department. Organize or participate in a neighborhood watch program.

Intentionally set fires are a community problem. We can all take steps to help protect our properties and neighborhoods. Being aware of the statistics and of what's going on in your neighborhood are good starting points.