

# Memorandum



Date: August 13, 2010

To: Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine Caraway, Chair  
and Members of the Public Safety Committee

Subject: Fire Investigation and Explosive Ordinance Disposal Division

The Public Safety Committee will be briefed on the Fire Investigation and Explosive Ordinance Disposal Division on Monday, August 16, 2010.



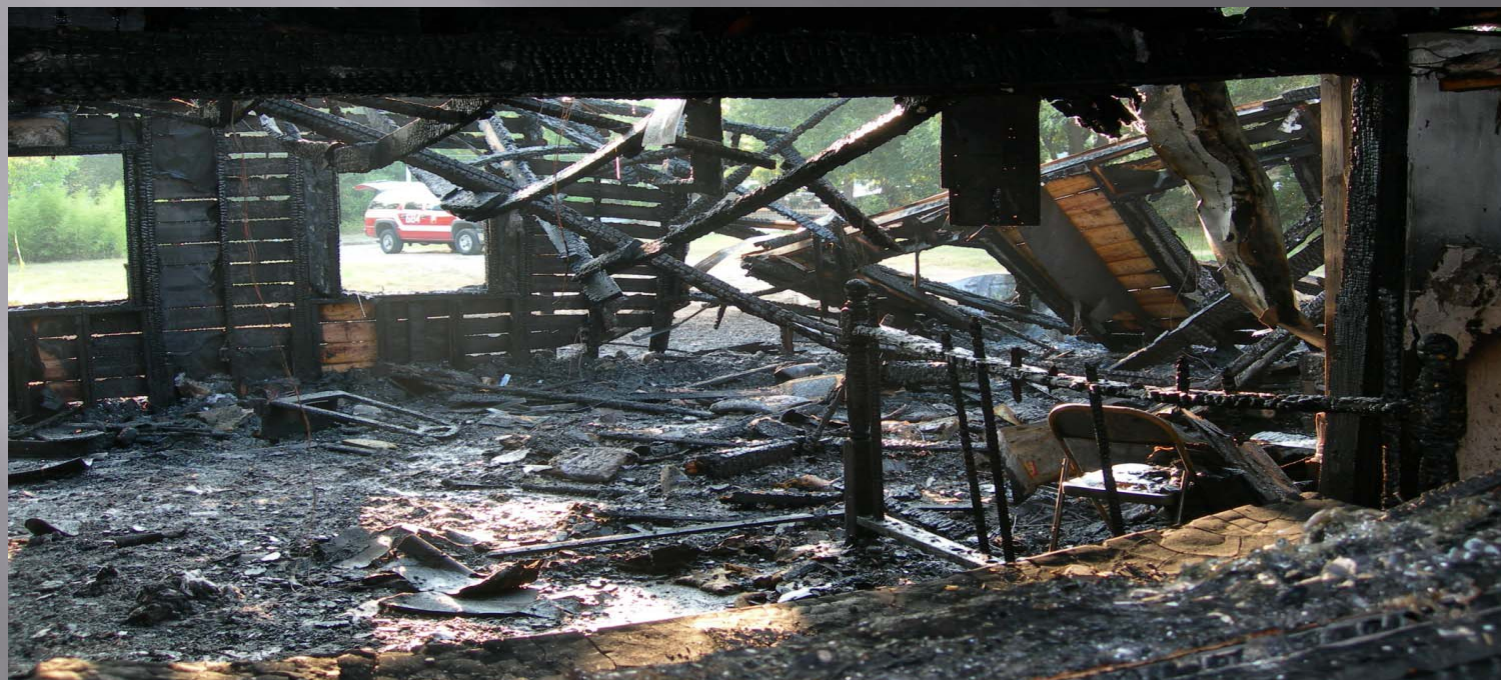
Ryan S. Evans  
First Assistant City Manager

## Attachment

- c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council
  - Mary K. Suhm, City Manager
  - Deborah Watkins, City Secretary
  - Tom Perkins, City Attorney
  - Craig Kinton, City Auditor
  - Victor Lander, Administrative Municipal Judge
  - Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
  - A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager
  - Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
  - Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
  - Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager Mayor/City Council Office



# FIRE INVESTIGATION AND EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL DIVISION



Joe Pierce, Deputy Chief  
August 16, 2010



# Purpose

- To provide an update on Dallas Arson statistics, trends and initiatives
- To give an overview of the Fire Investigation and E.O.D Division
- Update on the E.O.D team acquisition and first year with DFD



# What does Arson look like?



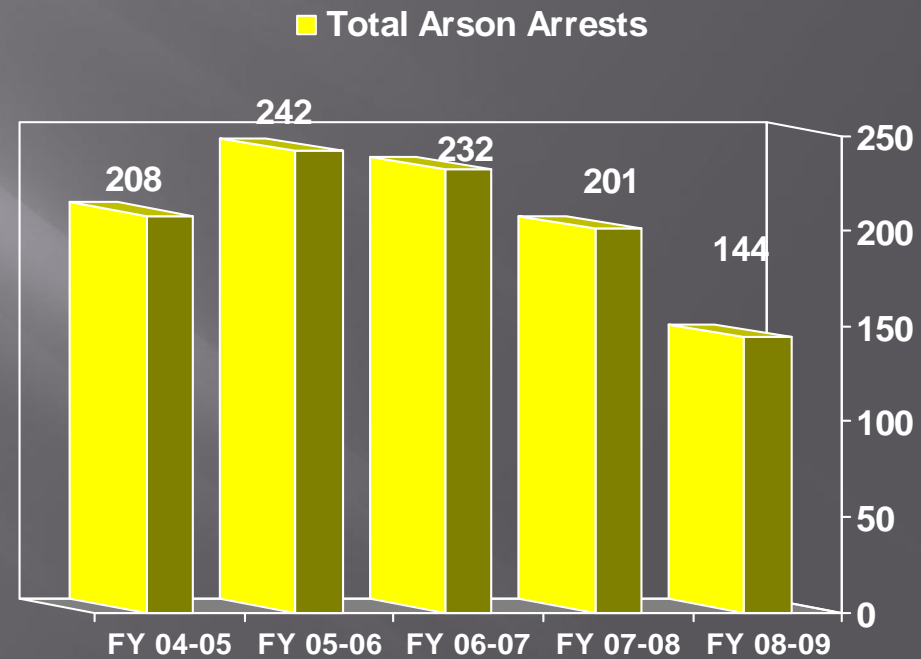
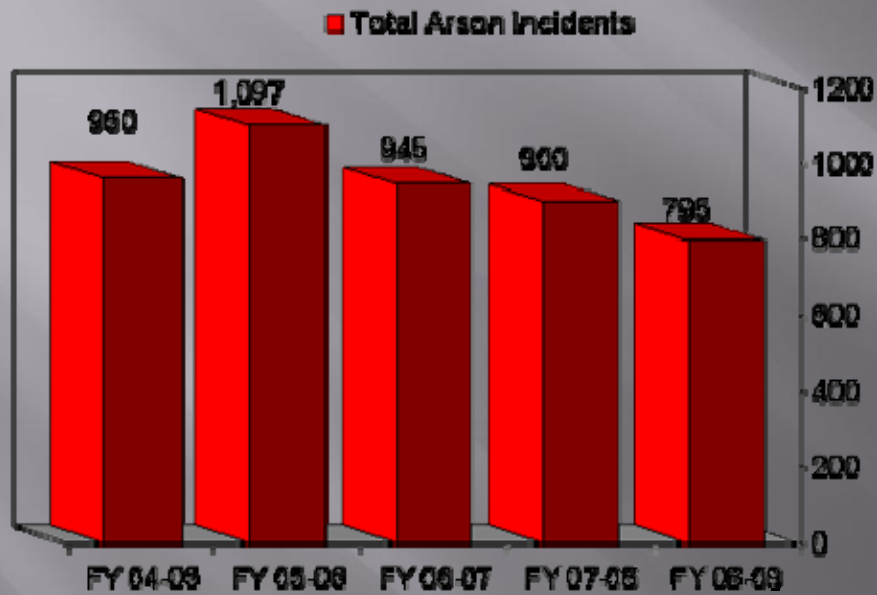
# 2008-2009 Fire Stats

- Total fire loss . . . . . \$35,818,171
- Incendiary fire loss. . . . . \$13,934,506
- Incendiary fires . . . . . 795
- Avg. loss per incendiary fire .....\$29,711

# Incendiary Fire Stats

- ▣ In the 2007-2008 fiscal year there were 900 incendiary fires in the City of Dallas.
- ▣ This number has decreased to 795 fires in the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

# 2005-2009 Arson Stats



# State Law

- Arson - an offense if a person starts a fire or causes an explosion with intent to destroy or damage any:
  - Vegetation, fence, or structure on open-space land
  - Building
  - Habitation
  - Vehicle



# Arson Crime

## Criminal Punishments

- ❑ Arson:
  - Second Degree Felony - Texas Department of Corrections (TDC) 2 to 20 years and up to \$10,000 fine
- ❑ Arson with bodily injury, death or arson of a habitation or place of assembly or worship:
  - First Degree Felony - TDC 5 to 99 years or life and up to \$10,000 fine
- ❑ Criminal Mischief:
  - Depends on value of property damaged or destroyed

# Reasons Behind Arson

- For Profit
- Revenge and prejudice
- Vanity
- Crime concealment
- Psychological compulsion
- Mass Civil Disturbance (Riot)
- Terrorism
- Gang initiations
- Thrill seekers and dares

# Arson Investigators



# Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program

*The J.F.I.P conducted 150 intervention sessions last year.*



# What Are We Doing About Arson in Dallas?

- ▣ Arson Awareness/Prevention Program
  - “Burn An Arsonist for Cold Cash Program”
  - Working on billboard advertisements
  - Signs at fire scenes to solicit tips
  - Passing out flyers when canvassing neighborhoods
  - Arresting arsonists and putting out press releases
  - Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention program
  - Seeking grants for more resources and advertising

# Vehicle Arson Prevention

- ▣ Clean garage – Park car in garage
- ▣ Park your car in a well-lit area
- ▣ Use a secure parking lot for extended periods
- ▣ Close all windows
- ▣ Remove the key from the ignition
- ▣ Always lock doors, trunk, tailgate
- ▣ Use antitheft devices
- ▣ Report abandoned cars to police

To report Arson contact:  
Fire Investigation and Explosive Ordnance  
Disposal Division – (214-670-4312)

# Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers has increased the reward up to \$5,000.00 for information that leads to the arrest and indictment of persons committing the crime of Arson.

Call Crime Stoppers to  
“Burn an Arsonist for Cold Cash”

Call *1-877-373-TIPS (8477)* to leave tips.

# Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team



# MISSION

Render safe and/or remove suspected (IED) improvised explosive devices, incendiary devices, explosives explosive chemicals (as currently defined by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms ATF) pyrotechnics and ammunition.

# Safety Principles for Render Safe Procedure (RSP)



THE BOMB TECHNICIAN'S PRIMARY MISSION IS TO PREVENT THE LOSS OF LIFE AND THAT INCLUDES THE LIFE OF THE BOMB TECHNICIAN

# Safety Principles for RSP

## **Bomb Squad Priorities:**

1. Public Safety
2. Safety of the officers on the scene, includes bomb tech
3. Protection and preservation of public or private property
4. Collection and preservation of evidence
5. Convenience to the public / restoration of services

# Bomb Threat Procedures (General Information)

- Do not touch, open, or move any suspect item or device.
- Always consider secondary devices likely to be present.
- Minimize radio transmissions when feasible.
- If an evacuation is ordered, establish perimeter at 300 feet, (750 feet for suspected car bombs).

# Bomb Squad Activities

Bomb response calls.....48

Follow-ups/Investigations.....86

# EOD UPDATE

- ▣ 4 DFD candidates passed the selection process to become Arson Investigator/EOD Techs.
- ▣ Next step – Complete Dallas Police Academy
- ▣ Next step – Complete Arson Investigator Certification
- ▣ Next step – Complete FBI Hazardous Devices School



# ARSON INVESTIGATION & EOD

Have investigative responsibility for the following offenses:

Section 22.07	Arson
Section 28.02	Terroristic Threats (or Bomb Threat)
Section 28.03	Criminal Mischief (Bomb Involved)
Section 42.02	Riot
Section 42.03	Obstructing highway or other passageway
Section 42.05	Disrupting meeting or procession
Section 42.06	False Alarm or Report (Bomb Threat)
Section 46.06	Prohibited Weapons (an Explosive Weapon)
Section 46.08	Hoax Bombs
Section 46.09	Components of Explosives

# Questions?

