

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE: February 21, 2014

TO: Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee:
Sheffie Kadane (Chair), Adam Medrano (Vice Chair), Dwaine Caraway, Jennifer S. Gates,
Sandy Greyson, Scott Griggs

SUBJECT: **Fire Investigation & Explosive Ordinance Disposal**

Attached is briefing material on the "Citizens' Fire Investigation & Explosive Ordinance Disposal" to be presented to the Members of the Public Safety Committee on Monday, February 24, 2014.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles M. Cato".

Charles M. Cato
Interim Assistant City Manager

Attachment

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Warren M. S. Ernst, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, Interim First Assistant Manager
Jill A. Jordan, P. E., Assistant City Manager
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Theresa O'Donnell, Interim Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Frank Libro, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor and Council

DALLAS FIRE-RESCUE

FIRE INVESTIGATION & EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL (EOD)



Public Safety Committee
February 24, 2014



Overview of the Fire Investigation and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Division will be offered in two distinct sections within this presentation



Fire Investigation



Our purpose:

Determine fire **Origin** and **Cause**



Our Mission:

- **Reduce accidental fires through education and intervention**
- **Reduce incendiary fires through arrest and conviction**

Our Vision: **Positively impact the crime rate and quality of life in Dallas**



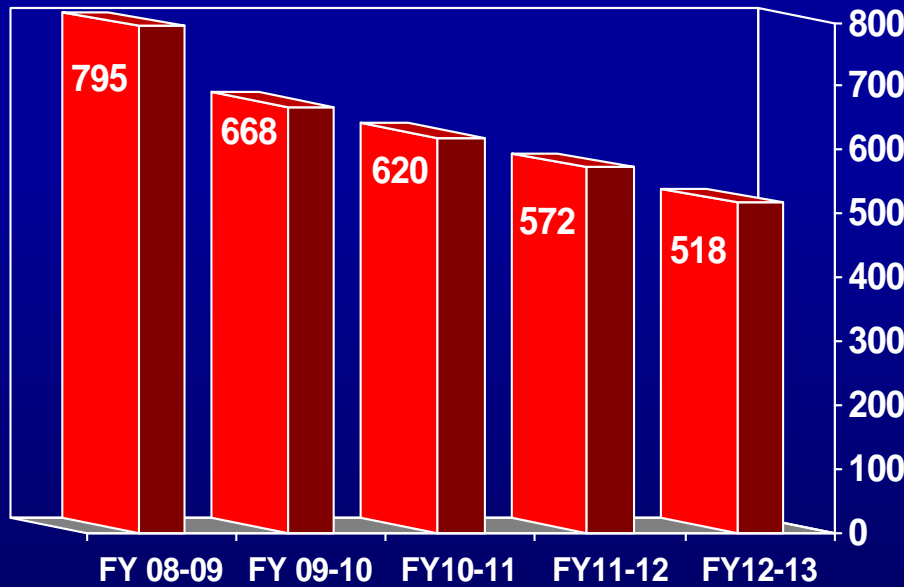


Our Values:

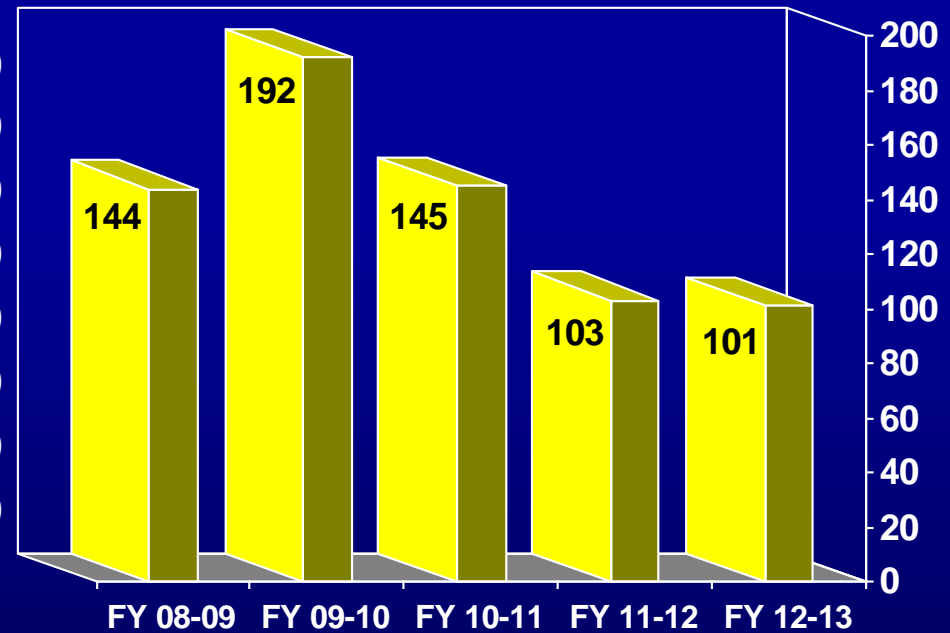
- **Compassion**
- **Integrity**
- **Dedication**
- **Effectiveness**
- **Customer Service**

2012-2013 Arson Statistics

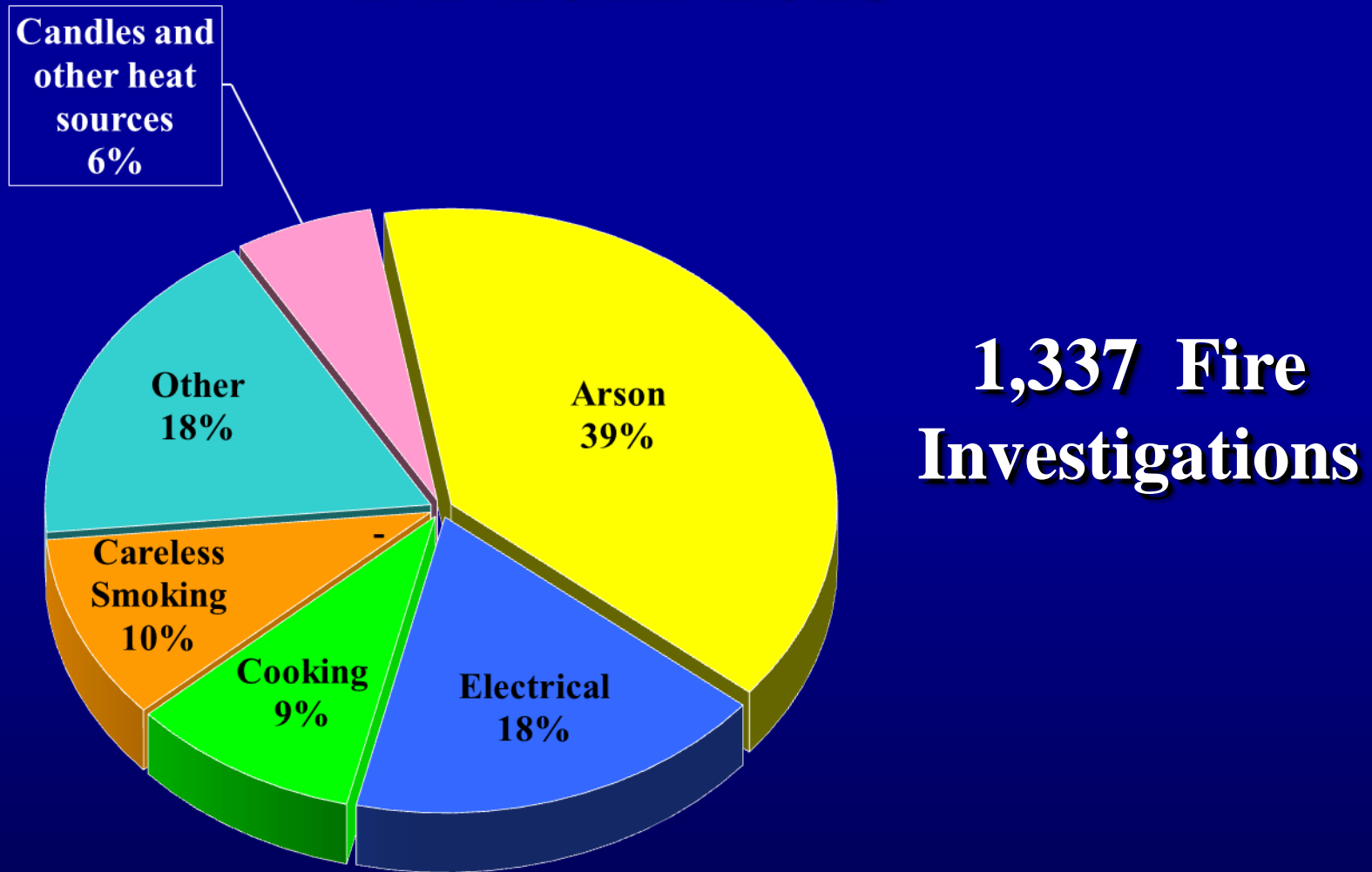
■ Total Arson Incidents



■ Total Arson Arrests



Fire Causes in Dallas FY 2012-2013



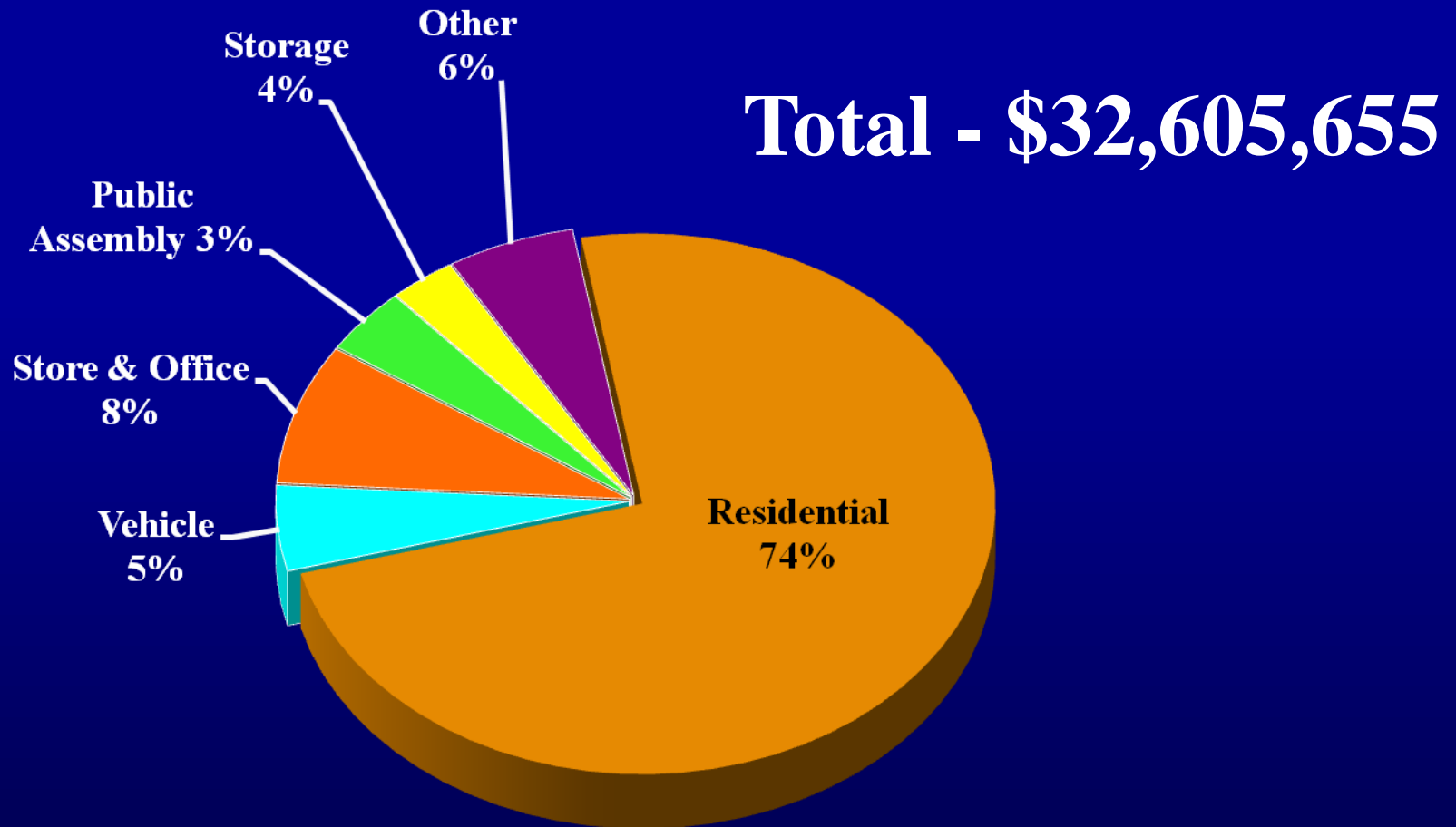
Some Fires are Accidental



Some Fires are Intentional



Fire Loss in Dallas FY 2012-2013

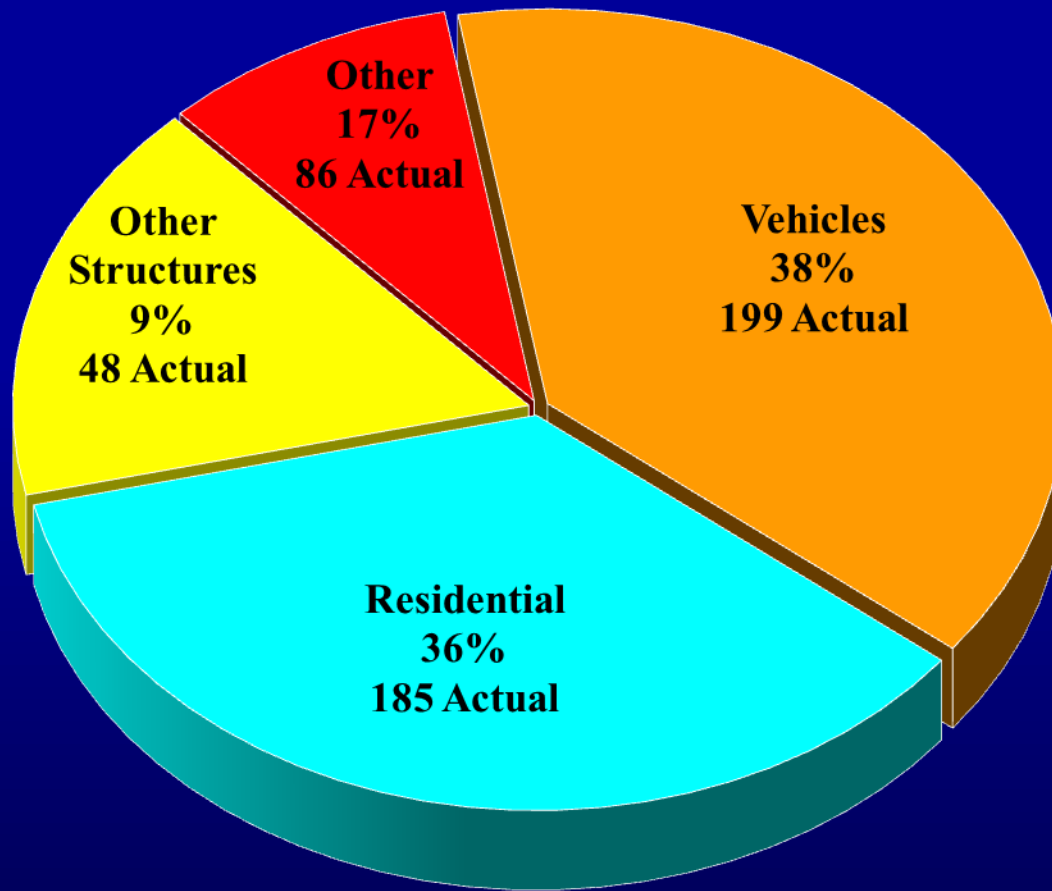


2012-2013 Fire Loss Stats

- **Total Fire Loss** \$32,605,655
- **Incendiary Fire Loss** \$4,060,366
- **Incendiary Fires** 518
- **Average Loss Per Incendiary Fire** . . . \$7,838



Incendiary Fires FY 2012-2013



**518 Total
Investigations**

Texas State Law

Penal Code PC 28.02

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



Texas State Law (Continued)

- **Knowing that it is:**
 1. **Within city limits**
 2. **Insured**
 3. **Subject to a mortgage**
 4. **On property of another**
 5. **Within property of another, or**
 6. **Reckless and endangers an individual or property of another**
- **Criminal Mischief - an offense if a person damages or destroys property of another. This includes fire offenses not listed in the arson statute.**



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**

What does Arson look like?



Reasons Behind Arson

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



What are we doing about Arson?

- **Arson Awareness/Prevention Program**
 - Utilizing the **“Burn an Arsonist for Cold Cash Program”**
 - Posting signs at fire scenes to solicit tips
 - Distributing flyers when canvassing neighborhoods
 - Arresting arsonists and posting out press releases
 - Intervention with Juvenile Fire Setters

Cause Determination

- **Witnesses**
- **Insurance**
- **Financial history**
- **Previous fire history**
- **Criminal background**

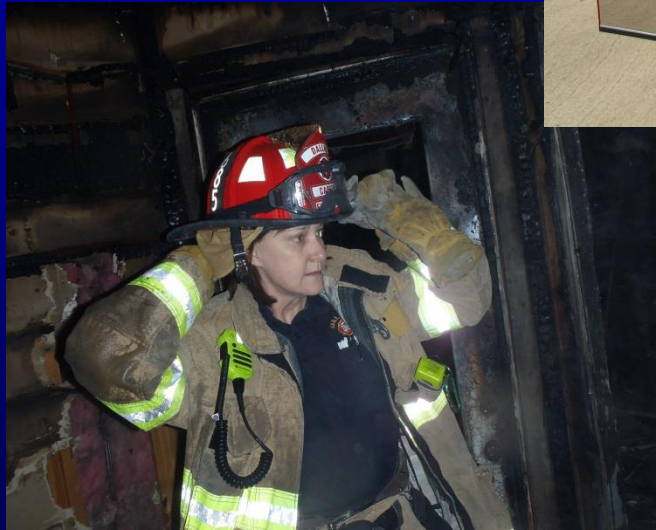


Arson Investigators

- **Specialized training**
- **Information sharing**
- **Teamwork**
- **Case preparation**
- **Testifying in court**



Arson Investigators



Youth Fire-setting Prevention & Intervention Program

Specialists Conducted
Forty-two (42)
Intervention Sessions



Arson Awareness Week

May 4 – 10, 2014



**Arson & Youth
Fire-setting
Prevention**



Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)



MISSION

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

2012-2013 EOD ACTIVITIES



Bomb response calls... 30

Follow-ups / Investigations... 68



Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)

Three (3) DFR members received all required certifications to become Arson Investigators / EOD Technicians by completing:

- **Dallas Police Academy**
- **HazMat Technician Training**
- **Arson Investigator Certification**
- **FBI Hazardous Devices School**



Safety Principles for “Render Safe Procedures” (RSP)

Bomb Squad Priorities:

- **Public Safety**
- **Safety of the officers on scene, includes bomb technician**
- **Protection and preservation of public or private property**
- **Collection and preservation of evidence**
- **Convenience to the public / restoration of services**



“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

Fire Investigation and EOD

- **Strong Enforcement of State Arson Statutes**
- **Develop Arson Awareness Program with emphasis on Arson Prevention**
- **Reward Incentive Program**
- **Educate the Community / Schools**
- **Partnerships**
 - **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF)**
 - **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**
 - **Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)**
 - **North Texas Joint Terrorism Task Force (NTJTTF)**
 - **Dallas County District Attorney's Office**

Questions?



Fire Investigation & EOD Division