

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department of Public Safety / Fire Safety

HB Section(s): 8.160

Program Name: Fire Investigation Program

Program is found in the following core budget(s): Fire Safety Core

1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

Public Safety through Fire and Arson Prevention

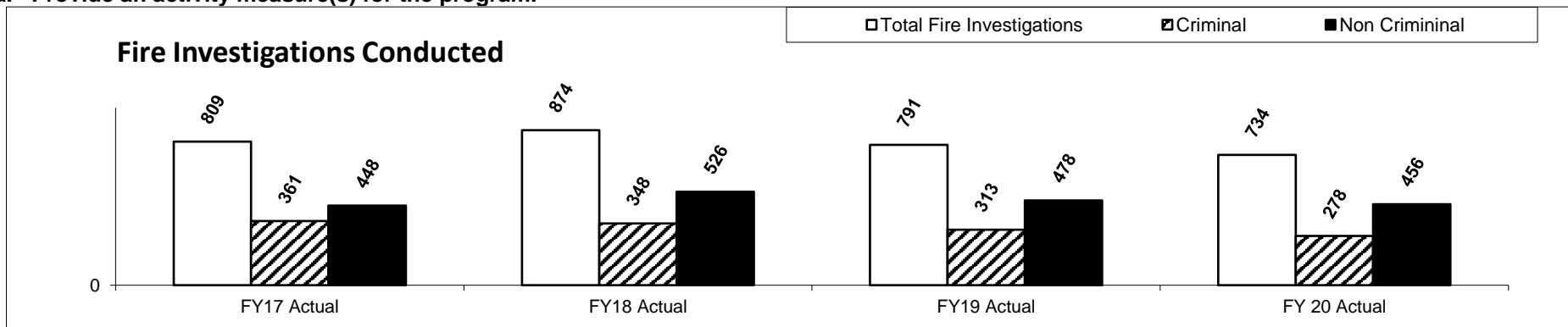
1b. What does this program do?

The Investigation Unit provides fire and explosive related investigative services to Missouri’s fire service and law enforcement agencies. A Deputy Chief Investigations Manager supervises two Commissioned Investigator Supervisors and fourteen field Senior Commissioned Investigators, each located strategically throughout the state and on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Under RSMo. 320.230, the State Fire Marshal and appointed investigators are responsible for investigating incidents involving the possibility of arson, explosion, or related offenses as requested by the fire service, law enforcement and prosecuting attorneys within the state.

Fire Investigators have the power of arrest for criminal offenses when investigating the cause, origin or circumstances of fires, explosions, or like occurrences involving the possibility of arson or related offenses. Investigators also have arrest powers when aiding and assisting a Sheriff or a Chief of Police or their designated representative at their request.

The Investigation Unit has three certified Computer Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) operators who assist Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies by conducting examinations. Additionally, Investigators are assigned special details when activated for Homeland Security or Statewide Mutual Aid occurrences. Commissioned Fire Investigators also serve as the enforcement arm of the Fireworks and Blasting Safety programs.

2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.



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2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.

Fourteen Division of Fire Safety field Senior Commissioned Investigators respond statewide 24/7 to requests from fire and law enforcement agencies. Using national standards and proven scientific methods, their mandate is to determine origin and cause of all fires, to include uncovering criminal activity. These efforts are aimed at fire and arson prevention for our Missouri communities.

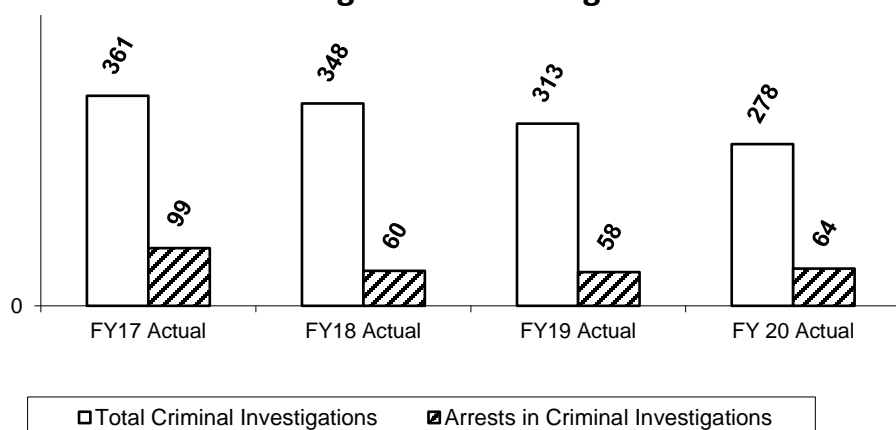
Investigators with the Division of Fire Safety have an excess of 750 hours of training including POST certification, Division of Fire Safety State Fire Investigator Certification, National Fire Academy training and various Federal Law Enforcement Academy training. Investigators are trained in several fields of expertise to include insurance fraud, explosive recognition, weapons of mass destruction, and post-blast investigations. Investigators also have advanced training in clandestine drug lab investigations.

2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.

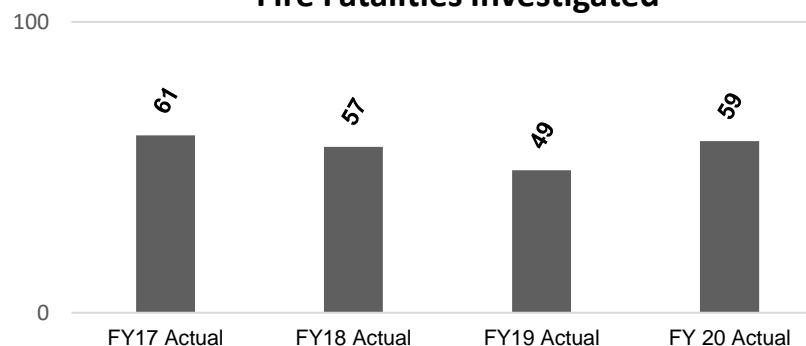
Arson is one of the most difficult of all major crimes to prove due to the large destruction of evidence. In FY20, the Division Fire Investigators worked 278 criminal investigations. Of those, 64 cases resulted in arrests. This arrest rate of 23% is above the national average.

Fire Investigators are routinely requested to scenes involving injuries and/or fatalities. In FY20 Fire Investigators responded to fires involving 59 fatalities.

Criminal Investigations Resulting in Arrests



Fire Fatalities Investigated



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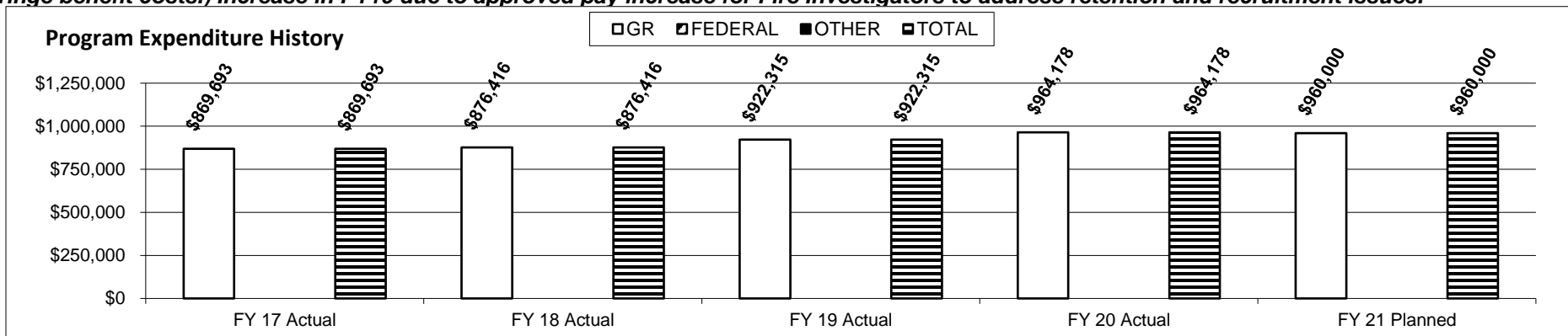
2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.

In FY20, the Division of Fire Safety's Fire Investigators averaged 50 fire scenes per field investigator, with an average response time to scene of 65 minutes.

Division staff train local fire and law enforcement personnel each year in basic fire origin and cause techniques in order to assist with efficient use of Division Fire Investigation staff. To date, more than 1,125 local responders have been trained.

This program provides services for over 1113 fire, police, and sheriff departments statewide as well as prosecutors. Ultimately the program benefits all

3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.) Increase in FY19 due to approved pay increase for Fire Investigators to address retention and recruitment issues.



4. What are the sources of the "Other " funds?

Not Applicable

5. What is the authorization for this program, i.e., federal or state statute, etc.? (Include the federal program number, if applicable.)

RSMo 320.230

6. Are there federal matching requirements? If yes, please explain.

No

7. Is this a federally mandated program? If yes, please explain.

No