

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department of Public Safety / Fire Safety

HB Section(s): 8.165

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.

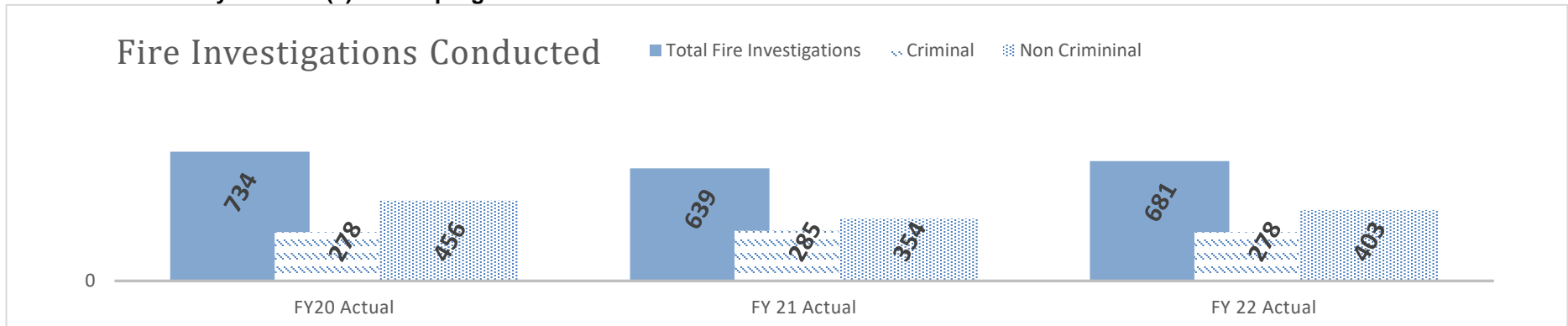
1b. What does this program do?

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. A Deputy Chief Investigations Manager supervises two Commissioned Investigator Supervisors and fourteen field Senior Commissioned Investigators, located strategically throughout the state and on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

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.

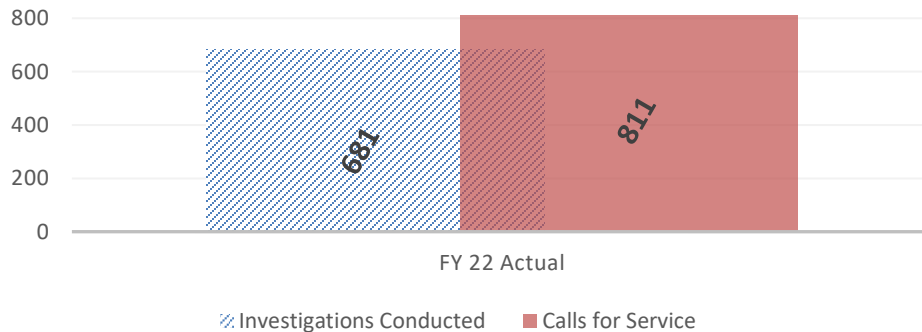
Investigators with the Division of Fire Safety have an excess of 750 hours of training including POST certification, Division of Fire Safety State Fire Investigator Certification, National Fire Academy training and various Federal Law Enforcement Academy training. Investigators are trained in several 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.

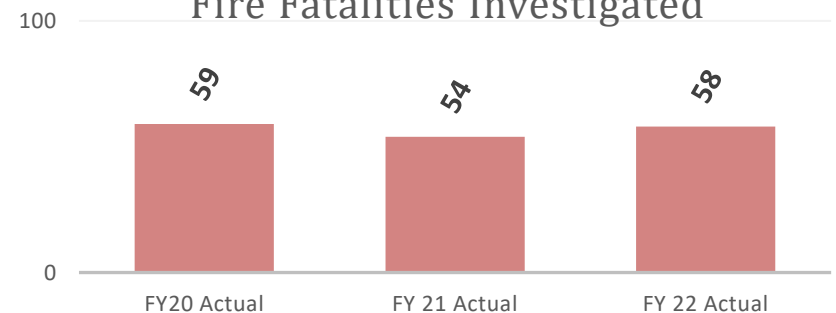
Arson is one of the most difficult of all major crimes to prove due to the extensive destruction of evidence. In FY22, the Division Fire Investigators responded to 811 calls for service, including 278 criminal investigations resulting in multiple arrests.

Fire Investigators are routinely requested to scenes involving injuries and/or fatalities. In FY22, Fire Investigators responded to fires which involved 58 fatalities. Cause of fire and fire death is extremely important in these situations.

Investigations Conducted & Calls for Service



Fire Fatalities Investigated



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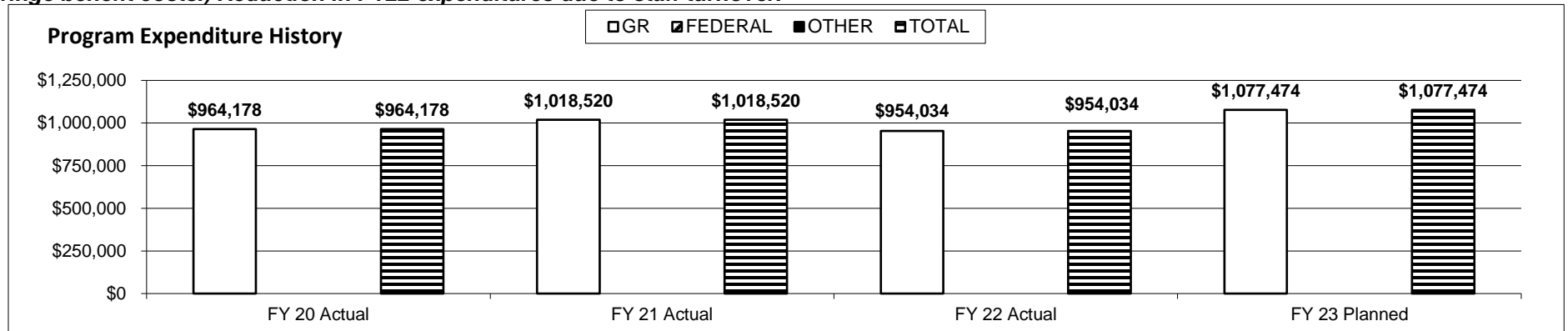
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2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.

This program has seen significant turnover in recent years. In FY22, the Division of Fire Safety's Fire Investigators averaged 42 fire scenes per field investigator, with an average response time to scene of 70 minutes.

This program provides services for over 1,113 fire, police, and sheriff departments statewide as well as prosecutors. Ultimately the program benefits all citizens of the State by determining fire cause thereby reducing preventable fires and deterring crime.

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.) *Reduction in FY22 expenditures due to staff turnover.*



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