

# ARSON

Arson — is any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc.

(Only fires determined through investigation to have been willfully or maliciously set are classified as arsons. Fires of suspicious or unknown origins are excluded.)

## 1980 — SUMMARY ANALYSIS

A total of 3,961 arsons was reported by Florida law enforcement agencies for the year 1980.

The number of arsons committed per 100,000 persons was 41.3.

There were 710 arsons cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared. This represents a statewide clearance rate of 17.9 percent.

The age group accounting for the highest percentage of persons arrested for arson was the 25-29 bracket with 12.0 percent. Of all persons arrested for arson, 85.5 percent were males.

Of all persons arrested for arson, 78.0 percent were white, 21.7 percent were black and 0.3 percent were of other races.

Of all property classifications, single occupancy residential accounted for the largest number of arsons with 1,089 offenses or 27.5 percent of all arsons. The percentage of arsons involving structures was 63.7 percent as compared to 27.9 percent for mobile property. The remaining percentage involved destruction of crops, timber, signs and other miscellaneous property. Offenses involving uninhabited structures were 683 or 17.2 percent of all arsons.

The value of property damaged by arson totaled \$31,496,922. Other residential consisted of 3.8 percent of the total amount or \$1,201,664. Mobile Property consisted of 7.7 percent of the total amount damaged or \$2,418,452.

## 1981 — SUMMARY ANALYSIS

A total of 3,851 arsons was reported by Florida law enforcement agencies for the year 1981.

The number of arsons committed per 100,000 persons was 38.1.

There were 737 arsons cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared. This represents a statewide clearance rate of 19.1 percent.

The age group accounting for the highest percentage of persons arrested for arson was the 25-29 bracket with 13.0 percent. Of all persons arrested for arson, 86.4 percent were males.

Of all persons arrested for arson, 75.2 percent were white, 24.2 percent were black and 0.6 percent were of other races.

Of all property classifications, single occupancy residential accounted for the largest number of arsons with 1,059 offenses or 27.5 percent of all arsons. The percentage of arsons involving structures was 61.0 percent as compared to 28.9 percent for mobile property. The remaining percentage involved destruction of crops, timber, signs and other miscellaneous property. Offenses involving uninhabited structures were 549 or 14.3 percent of all arsons.

The value of property damaged by arson totaled \$29,448,686. Other residential consisted of 5.2 percent of the total amount or \$1,543,757. Mobile Property consisted of 6.6 percent of the total amount damaged or \$1,952,432.

# ARSON

## ARSON BY PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION 1980-1981

| PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION                                                                           | YEAR | ACTUAL OFFENSES | PERCENT CHANGE | OFFENSES CLEARED | CLEARANCES INVOLVING JUVENILES | ARSON OF UNINHABITED STRUCTURES | EST. VALUE OF PROPERTY DAMAGE | PERCENT CHANGE |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Single Occupancy Residential: Houses, Townhouses, Duplexes, etc.                                  | 1980 | 1,089           |                | 255              | 59                             | 284                             | \$6,214,222                   |                |
|                                                                                                   | 1981 | 1,059           | -2.8           | 223              | 64                             | 276                             | 5,929,859                     | -4.6           |
| Other Residential: Apartments, Tenements, Flats, Hotels, Inns, Dormitories, Boarding Houses, etc. | 1980 | 361             |                | 68               | 19                             | 71                              | 1,201,664                     |                |
|                                                                                                   | 1981 | 368             | +1.9           | 89               | 20                             | 53                              | 1,543,757                     | +28.5          |
| Storage: Barns, Garages, Warehouses, etc.                                                         | 1980 | 92              |                | 17               | 7                              | 32                              | 633,151                       |                |
|                                                                                                   | 1981 | 108             | +17.4          | 15               | 5                              | 50                              | 535,620                       | -15.4          |
| Industrial/Manufacturing                                                                          | 1980 | 56              |                | 6                | 2                              | 7                               | 2,071,409                     |                |
|                                                                                                   | 1981 | 34              | -39.3          | 2                | 0                              | 6                               | 173,641                       | -91.6          |
| Other Commercial: Stores, Restaurants, Offices, etc.                                              | 1980 | 471             |                | 64               | 18                             | 107                             | 11,967,085                    |                |
|                                                                                                   | 1981 | 418             | -11.3          | 53               | 9                              | 73                              | 7,399,125                     | -38.2          |
| Community/Public: Churches, Jails, Schools, Colleges, Hospitals, etc.                             | 1980 | 283             |                | 77               | 33                             | 74                              | 6,188,693                     |                |
|                                                                                                   | 1981 | 231             | -18.4          | 71               | 29                             | 36                              | 7,057,640                     | +14.0          |
| All Other Structure: Out Buildings, Monuments, Buildings Under Construction, etc.                 | 1980 | 171             |                | 20               | 7                              | 108                             | 421,655                       |                |
|                                                                                                   | 1981 | 131             | -23.4          | 31               | 8                              | 55                              | 4,265,350                     | +911.6         |
| <b>TOTAL STRUCTURE</b>                                                                            | 1980 | 2,523           |                | 507              | 145                            | 683                             | \$28,697,879                  |                |
|                                                                                                   | 1981 | 2,349           | -6.9           | 484              | 135                            | 549                             | 26,904,992                    | -6.2           |
| Motor Vehicles: Automobiles, Trucks, Buses, Motorcycles, etc.: UCR Definition                     | 1980 | 1,035           |                | 119              | 17                             | ---                             | 1,595,076                     |                |
|                                                                                                   | 1981 | 1,028           | -0.7           | 133              | 15                             | ---                             | 1,684,352                     | +5.6           |
| Other Mobile Property: Trailers, Recreational Vehicles, Airplanes, Boats, etc.                    | 1980 | 69              |                | 6                | 3                              | ---                             | 823,376                       |                |
|                                                                                                   | 1981 | 85              | +23.2          | 16               | 3                              | ---                             | 268,080                       | -67.4          |
| <b>TOTAL MOBILE</b>                                                                               | 1980 | 1,104           |                | 125              | 20                             | ---                             | \$2,418,452                   |                |
|                                                                                                   | 1981 | 1,113           | +0.8           | 149              | 18                             | ---                             | 1,952,432                     | -19.3          |
| Total Other: Crops, Timber, Fences, Signs, etc.                                                   | 1980 | 334             |                | 78               | 45                             | ---                             | 380,591                       |                |
|                                                                                                   | 1981 | 389             | +16.5          | 104              | 68                             | ---                             | 591,262                       | +55.4          |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                                                                                | 1980 | 3,961           |                | 710              | 210                            | 683                             | \$31,496,922                  |                |
|                                                                                                   | 1981 | 3,851           | -2.8           | 737              | 221                            | 549                             | 29,448,686                    | -6.5           |

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