

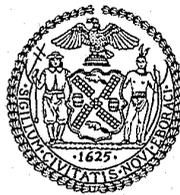
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# ARSON IN NEW YORK: 1984



CITY OF NEW YORK

Edward I. Koch, Mayor



Prepared by  
The Arson Strike Force  
Angelo Pisani, Jr.  
Coordinator

September 1985

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FREDERICK E. SAMUEL

1/22/24 - 9/12/85

*As Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, Frederick E. Samuel was instrumental in focusing public and governmental attention on the arson problem in New York City. His efforts led to the creation of the Arson Strike Force in 1978. As an eloquent champion of innovative crime fighting programs, Fred Samuel's passionate concern will be sorely missed.*

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September 1985

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We have spent the last six months preparing this report: compiling, editing and analyzing the arson information in our computer files. We thank the Fire, Police and City Planning Departments for providing the arson complaint, arrest and demographic data upon which this report is based. (Some 1984 data was still not available at the time this report was printed: extent of fire damage to buildings; origin points of arson fires; injuries to civilians and uniformed personnel caused by arson; arson frequencies in various building types, such as Old Law Tenements, Hotels, etc.; and comparative state and national arson statistics.)

The following members of the Arson Strike Force were responsible for in-putting the data: Tanya Jenkins, Dolores Mack and Mary Haney, with Tyrone Stiles programming the information. Frank Pawlowsky and Greg Willis supervised data processing operations. Joseph Enright coordinated the research analysis, conducted by Michael Rosenberg and Ilyse Fink. Michael Rosenberg also created the graphs and prepared the mock-up; Ilyse Fink executed the lay-outs. Pauline Giordano, Avril Miller and Elizabeth Ortiz prepared the early drafts and manuscript; Carol Dunn and Isela Miranda provided additional production assistance. Stephen Rosario provided technical assistance. Interns Gavin Plunkett and Wendy Silva generated additional research information. The Fire Department's Photo Forensic Unit supplied most of the photographs, which were screened by CITY RECORD GRAPHICS. The printing was done by the Mayor's Office of Correspondence.

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Mayor Koch announces permanent assignment of Red Cap Task Force No. 1 to the Bronx in August of 1984. Seated behind the Mayor (Right to Left) are Fire Commissioner Joseph E. Spinnato, First Deputy Fire Commissioner Joseph F. Bruno and Chief Fire Marshal John B. Regan.

Preface By the Mayor

When I became Mayor in 1978, I took active steps to reduce crime by enlarging the police force and by urging my commissioners to crack down on "victimless crimes" which had created an atmosphere of lawlessness in our streets. I also fought for tougher laws and sanctions against criminals and helped to change the operating methods of our justice system.

During the past eight years, we have had notable successes, but we still have much to do. In many ways, our success in fighting arson demonstrates what we can accomplish when government and citizens join in fighting a common adversary.

Red Cap patrols by fire marshals, sealing vacant buildings, amending the state's insurance law, doubling the manpower of the Bureau of Fire Investigation, monitoring fire insurance proceeds on tax delinquent properties, establishing clear delineation of investigative responsibilities between the Fire and Police Departments, funding arson awareness programs at the neighborhood level, rehabilitating City-acquired multiple dwellings and establishing arson-specific prosecutors for each borough were just some of the active measures which have accounted for the 50% decline in arson since 1978. Of course, this reduction would not have taken place if we all had sat back, thrown up our hands in despair, and allowed our City to continue to burn.

Another important step we took in 1978--in order to improve and coordinate the anti-arson activities of various City agencies--was the creation of the Arson Strike Force. One of the most useful functions that the Strike Force has performed over the years is to collect and disseminate information regarding arson in New York City.

Like most crimes, the impact of arson is difficult to measure in any absolute sense. The toll that crime takes in injuries, fatalities and property losses are basic indicators. However, these cold figures cannot reflect the loss of a sense of personal safety or provide a true picture of a victim's despair or the disruption of community life that crime, in general, and arson, in particular, can cause. Nevertheless, these statistics form the cornerstone for developing strategies to attack arson, and I think you will find this latest report from the Arson Strike Force to be quite thorough.



Edward I. Koch  
Mayor of the City of New York

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Angelo L. Pisani, Jr.  
Arson Strike Force Coordinator

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From 1958 to 1967 the number of arson cases in New York City increased 100 percent and then doubled again during the next seven years. By 1976, arson had reached epidemic proportions, with over 13,000 cases occurring throughout the five boroughs. In the following year, a City-wide blackout was accompanied by looting and the Fire Department recorded over one thousand incidents in a single 24-hour period. Clearly, something had to be done to prevent the continuation of this massive destruction.

Because arson is such a complex phenomenon, involving a plethora of socio-economic issues beyond the realm of the criminal justice system, New York devised a coordinated governmental and public strategy to immediately address the problem. In 1978, the City Council and the newly elected Mayor Edward I. Koch created an agency--the Arson Strike Force (ASF)--to implement and oversee this broadbased approach to arson suppression and control. To ensure that the resources and priorities of City government would be effectively focused on the arson problem, the commissioners of five agencies and a Mayoral advisor were designated as members of an Arson Strike Force Board of Directors, chaired by the City's Criminal Justice Coordinator. The ASF was mandated to promote cooperation among these agencies and has since come to serve as the fulcrum for coordinating arson-related policy matters, intelligence and data.

The arson suppression programs devised by the City since 1978 have each contributed in the past seven years to a 43 percent reduction of total arson incidence; a 50 percent reduction of total structural arson; a 26 percent reduction of arson in occupied buildings; and a 72 percent reduction of arson in vacant buildings.

## Arson Strike Force Member Agency Reports

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT's Bureau of Fire Investigation increased its number of fire marshals from 63 in 1978 to 288 in 1984. In 1981, it began deploying fire marshals on active patrols (Red Caps) in high arson-risk neighborhoods to deter would-be arsonists, to increase public awareness of the arson problem and to monitor arson-prone vacant buildings. Although the number of arson determinations generally rises during the length of the Red Caps' presence in a particular community district (Red Caps respond to almost all alarms, thus bypassing the discretion of fire chiefs in the field), arson incidence subsides to significantly lower levels following their departure, when compared to pre-Red Cap arson frequencies. In addition, during their stay arson arrests increase and all fire activity generally declines during and subsequent to Red Cap treatment. Four of the five community districts which the Red Caps patrolled during 1983 experienced significant across-the-board declines in 1984, including decreases ranging from 15 to 39 percent in structural arsons and decreases ranging from five to 26 percent in all structural fires. (The exception was a C.D. which experienced three more accidental fires in 1984 than in 1983.)

THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT has played a significant role in reducing arson incidence since 1978 by devising strategies to prevent housing abandonment and by initiating a masonry seal program to preserve vacant buildings and prevent fires therein. Since 1978, over 10,000 apartments in buildings acquired by the City for non-payment of taxes have been returned to private ownership through the Division of Alternative Management Program and over 42,000 vacant buildings have been demolished or sealed by the Divisions of Demolition and Code Enforcement. The number of buildings masonry sealed and demolished by HPD increased four percent during 1984, further contributing to the decline in vacant building arsons which has aided in reducing such fires to a level not seen in New York since the mid-1950's.

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT's Arson Major Case Squad--the first such multi-agency unit of its kind in New York City--was established in July of 1984, pursuant to a protocol between the Police and Fire Commissioners. The Squad, with City-wide jurisdiction to assume investigation of major arson cases, falls under the administrative aegis of the N.Y.P.D.'s Arson & Explosion Division and its 18 detectives (situated in precincts in the Bronx and Brooklyn), is supplemented by four special agents from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and four fire marshals. (The number of fire marshals assigned to the unit will increase once contractual issues related to their work charts are resolved.) In its first full year of operation, the Squad closed 35 cases with negative results, cleared seven cases by arrest, assisted Precinct Detective Units in clearing three additional cases by arrest and cleared an eleventh case by extraordinary means. There were 29 cases still active as of 7/1/85, with arrests expected in nine cases. Beyond a number of important arrests involving arson-for-profit, the establishment of the Squad has successfully delineated lines of jurisdiction for arson investigations in New York, thus reducing the negative effect of counter-productive competition in the law enforcement community.

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE has recouped over eleven million dollars in revenue from tax delinquent landlords since 1979, by placing liens on fire insurance claims. Its Fire Insurance Proceeds Unit has improved the ratio of liens collected to liens issued by six percent and has more than doubled the dollar value of liens collected within the past year through aggressive new strategies.

THE HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION--by establishing liaison with the Bureau of Fire Investigation in 1979--has helped to reduce the incidence of fires set by public assistance recipients fraudulently attempting to recover replacement funds for fire damaged property or seeking relocation to other residential units. In 1984, HRA denied 5.1 percent of the 1,288 requests it processed involving replacement funds for fire damaged personal belongings as a result of this program.

## N.Y.C. Arson Trends

- In 1984, arson in New York City receded to its lowest level since 1967.
- In 1976, three out of every four arsons occurred in vacant buildings. In 1984, only three out of every ten arsons occurred in such structures.
- Of the eight most serious felony crimes, only burglary has declined at a steeper rate than arson over the past five years in New York City (-38.9 percent for burglary vs. -32.0 percent for arson).
- All fire activity (accidental and arson) has declined significantly throughout the five boroughs, with a 39 percent decrease registered in all structural fires since 1976.
- The percentage of all fires that are attributable to arson has declined from 26.2 percent in 1977 to 14.7 percent in 1984.
- The percentage of all vacant building fires attributable to arson has averaged 57.6 percent since 1979, when fire marshals began to investigate suspicious fires in such structures. Because Red Caps discover many more such arsons in areas they patrol, it is believed that if all vacant building fires were to be routinely investigated, the ratio of arson to accidental vacant building fires would be closer to 80 percent.

## 1984 City-Wide Arson

- Total arson incidents declined 3.4 percent from 1983's total (from 6,094 to 5,885 in 1984).
- Structural arson declined 8.2 percent from 1983's total (from 5,557 to 5,104 in 1984). Occupied building arsons declined 4.5 percent (3,686 to 3,520) and vacant building arsons declined 15.3 percent (1,871 to 1,584).
- Motor vehicle arsons increased 50.4 percent from 1983's total (from 490 to 737 in 1984), and are expected to rise even further as the result of new reporting procedures established this year.
- Approximately 68 percent of all structural arson occurred in multiple dwellings in 1984, a ratio little changed from 1983's 69 percent. The next most frequent location for structural arson--commercial/industrial buildings--also showed remarkably little fluctuation: 18 percent in 1984 vs. 17 percent in 1983.

- Structural arson was most prevalent at midnight in 1984, when almost twice as many arsons occurred, compared to 1983's hourly distribution. Occupied building arsons also peaked at midnight, while vacant building arsons were most likely to occur at five o'clock in the afternoon during 1984.
- Following 15 consecutive quarters of decline, structural arson rose five percent during the last quarter of 1984, when the 1,376 cases recorded represented the highest quarterly total for the year.
- Almost 25 percent of all structural arsons occurred in the 489 buildings that experienced more than one arson during 1984. In 1983, multiple arson buildings accounted for the same approximate percentage of all arsons.

#### 1984 Borough-Wide Arson

- Structural arson has declined dramatically in all five boroughs since 1980, from -46.1 percent in the Bronx to -17.7 percent in Manhattan. Brooklyn, the Bronx and Manhattan continue to rank (in that order) as the most arson-prone boroughs (accounting for 86.9 percent of all structural arson in 1980 vs. 83.9 percent in 1984).
- Structural arson declined appreciably in Brooklyn and the Bronx (-224 and -278 cases, respectively); rose slightly in Manhattan and Queens (+10 and +9 cases, respectively); and increased appreciably in Staten Island which still accounts for only four percent of the City's structural arson (+18 cases).
- Staten Island now accounts for 21.7 percent of the City's vehicular arsons, its incidence of motor vehicle arson more than tripling in 1984. Such fires--primarily occurring in automobiles--account for almost half of that borough's arson cases.
- Staten Island also ranks disproportionately high in its per capita arson rate (second); in its ratio of intentional to accidental fires (first); and in its ratio of arsons to vacant buildings (second).
- The Bronx ranks either first or second in all three aforementioned categories. It also ranks first in the average dollar value of fire insurance claims (accidental and arson combined) and in the percentage of its arson fires occurring in multiple arson buildings.
- Queens ranks fourth or fifth in all aforementioned categories except for the average dollar value of fire insurance claims, trailing only the Bronx in that regard.

- Analysis of fire and arson rates in vacant buildings appears to suggest the value of HPD's demolition and seal up activities: in 1983, 20 percent of all vacant buildings throughout the boroughs suffered fires. In 1984, HPD masonry sealed or demolished four percent more vacant buildings than it did in 1983. In 1984, only 16 percent of all vacant buildings suffered fires.
- The distribution of structural arson by building types continues to differ significantly from borough to borough, but within borough frequencies showed little variation from 1983 to 1984. Manhattan once again has the highest share of its arsons occurring in multiple dwellings (81 percent in 1984 vs. 82 percent in 1983), while Staten Island has the lowest proportion (25 percent in 1984 vs. 23 percent in 1983). On the other hand, Queens (30 percent in 1984 vs. 34 percent in 1983) and Brooklyn (21 percent in 1984 vs. 20 percent in 1983) continue to have the highest rates of commercial/industrial arsons.

#### 1984 Arson Fatalities

- Although the number of arson fatalities remained unchanged in 1984 (27 victims), there were appreciable shifts in the times of these fatal fires: they were more prevalent in the warmer months and in the early morning hours during 1984.
- Arson caused 13.1 percent of all 1984 fire-related fatalities, an increase over 1983's rate of 11.8 percent.
- Hallways and bedrooms in multiple dwellings continued to be the most frequent origin points for fatal arson fires in 1984. Teenagers continued to comprise the age group least susceptible to arson (and all fire) fatality.

#### 1984 Arson Arrests

- There was a slight increase in the number of arrests made for arson (641 in 1984 vs. 630 in 1983). The distribution of arson arrests remains very closely correlated with the distribution of arson complaints throughout the five boroughs.
- The typical arson arrestee in 1984 was a single (68 percent), unemployed (54 percent), male (85 percent), under the age of thirty (62 percent).

- The majority of teenagers arrested for arson (54 percent) were charged in connection with fires in vacant buildings and motor vehicles, a finding consistent with the previously noted frequency of vacant building arsons in the late afternoon.
- Those charged with setting fires in vacant buildings and motor vehicles were most likely to have confederates (31 percent in 1984 vs. 32 percent in 1983).
- There was a significant increase in arrests for arson of motor vehicles (+44 percent), but most arson charges--like most arson complaints--continue to involve fires in residential structures (62 percent).
- The most frequent felony companion charges for arrested arsonists continue to be reckless endangerment, criminal mischief and burglary.
- The ratio of arson complaints to arson investigations closed by arrest (the clearance rate) was 6.5 percent in 1984.
- Fire marshals made 240 arson or arson-related arrests in 1984. The Police Department made 350 arson arrests and other law enforcement agencies made a combined total of 115 arson arrests.
- Three out of every four arson arrests by all commands (and two out of every three fire marshal arrests which cleared arson cases) occurred within 24 hours of the crime.

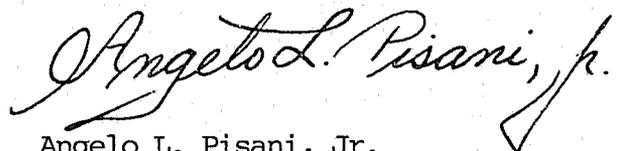
#### Arson by Community District: 1984

- Thirty of the City's 59 community districts experienced decreases in the number of total arson complaints during 1984, while the remaining 29 experienced increases.
- Thirty-three districts recorded declines in structural arson during 1984; 24 districts experienced increases; and two remained at the same level.
- Forty-three districts experienced declines in the total number of structural fires (accidental and arson combined); 15 districts recorded increases; and one neighborhood showed no change.
- Thirty districts experienced a decline in the percentage of structural fires caused by arson and twenty-nine showed increases.

- There were three districts (West Side of Manhattan; Morris Heights in the Bronx; and Crown Heights South in Brooklyn) in which 40 percent or more of their structural arson was concentrated in buildings sustaining multiple arson fires.
- As in 1983, more than half of all the City's structural arson was concentrated in only 14 of the City's 59 community districts during 1984. Conversely, the 14 least arson-prone districts provided the location for only seven percent of the City's structural arson.
- In three community districts (Mott Haven, East Tremont/West Farms and Hunts Point--all in the Bronx) arson in vacant buildings predominated over arson in occupied structures.

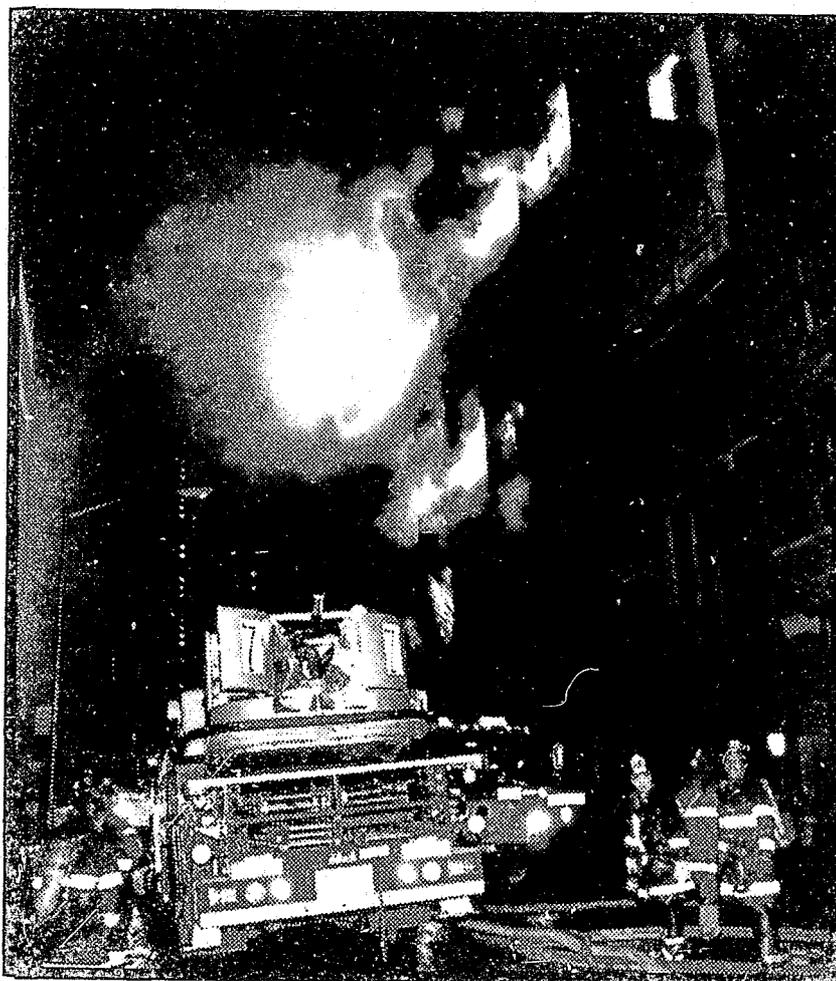
### Summary

In 1984 arson in New York City ranged from a small, easily extinguished fire set in a trash bin located in the restroom of a government building in Brooklyn's Civic Center, to a molotov cocktail thrown into a numbers storefront on Webster Avenue in the Bronx that caused a major blaze and claimed three lives. Although the majority of arsons that occur each year cause little or no damage, each and every intentionally set fire carries with it the potential to maim and destroy lives and neighborhoods. New York's innovative anti-arson programs and the dedicated work of community groups have produced great results over the past eight years. And although New York City no longer bears the dubious distinction of being "The Arson Capital of the World," continued vigilance and refinement of governmental efforts provide the surest defense against a recurrence of the arson fire storm of the last decade.



Angelo L. Pisani, Jr.  
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ARSON STRIKE FORCE  
MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS



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Special Advisor to the Mayor

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Joseph E. Spinnato  
Commissioner

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department responded to over 94,000 fires in New York City during 1984. Approximately 37 percent (or 34,673) of these fires occurred in structures, with the remainder (59,703) occurring in motor vehicles, fields, empty lots, etc. Approximately 10,000 fires were investigated by the Bureau of Fire Investigation (BFI) during 1984, and 5,885 were determined to be caused by arson.

At the close of calendar year 1984, BFI consisted of 288 fire marshals, 38 supervising fire marshals, seven deputy chief marshals and Chief Fire Marshal John B. Regan. Nearly half of the Bureau's line staff (129 marshals and 21 supervisors) are now deployed in three patrol units, as Red Cap Task Forces. These mobile teams of fire marshals, who respond to nearly every alarm in the districts they patrol, were first established in 1981. To date they have serviced 16 of the City's 59 community districts and have quickly become New York's most popular anti-arson program. During 1984, these task forces responded to 10,904 alarms in six community districts, made 594 structural arson determinations, arrested 97 Ouspected arsonists and made 60 other arrests (all fire marshals are conferred police officer status under the State's Criminal Procedure Law and the City's Administrative Code and are thus empowered to make arrests for non-arson related offenses as well).

The balance of BFI personnel are deployed at Headquarters and at two bases (one in Brooklyn and one on Randall's Island) and are dispatched to fire scenes in non-Red Cap areas where battalion chiefs consider a fire to be of a suspicious nature. Fire marshals also investigate all fires of more than two alarms, all fires resulting in death or serious injury, and complaints and notifications of arson-related situations.

In 1976, when fire and arson activity peaked in New York City, there were 63 fire marshals. Since then, the number of fire marshals has quadrupled, allowing BFI to investigate a substantially larger portion of fires that occur every year. In 1984, BFI recorded 10,061 fire investigations, a 19 percent increase over

1983's total of 8,452 investigations. In addition, Red Caps recorded 10,904 responses, a 39 percent increase over 1983's figure of 7,835 responses. With the addition of the third Red Cap Task Force in December of 1984, and anticipated revision of the radio response system (whereby fire marshals are dispatched to fire scenes) in order to get a truer picture of arson in New York City by uncovering more "hidden" arsons, it is anticipated that the number of arson determinations will rise during 1985.

In 1984, BFI recorded 322 arrests, of which 240 were for arson (or arson-related) crimes. These figures also represent substantial increases (+16% and +19% respectively) over 1983 totals.

POLICE DEPARTMENT



Benjamin Ward  
Commissioner

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

A multi-agency Arson Major Case Squad--the first ever in New York City--was established in July of 1984, pursuant to a protocol signed by the Police and Fire Commissioners. Administered by the Arson & Explosion Division, the Squad is staffed by 18 detectives, four fire marshals from the Bureau of Fire Investigation and four special agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms of the U.S. Department of Treasury. The primary objective of the Squad is to assume the long-term investigation of major arson cases and organized arson-for-profit schemes, after reviewing initial fire marshal reports from the Bureau of Fire Investigation.

The Squad chose 77 arson fires for investigation during its first 12 months of operation. The overwhelming majority (64) of these arsons involved commercial properties, with the remainder affecting houses of worship and other sensitive locations. Thirty-five cases were closed without results while seven cases were cleared by Squad arrests. Three additional cases were cleared by Precinct Detective Unit arrests (with assistance by the Squad); two cases were referred to other units; and one case was cleared by extraordinary means (the suspected arsonist died in the fire). Twenty-nine of the Squad's cases remained active as of 7/1/85, with arrests expected in nine of these on-going investigations.

Once contractual grievances regarding the work charts of fire marshals are resolved, it is anticipated that a full compliment of marshals will be assigned to the Squad, which will allow for a greater case load.

Over 50 percent of all arson and attempted arson arrests recorded by N.Y.P.D.'s On Line Booking System were made by Police Department personnel during 1984. These include arson arrests made by the Arson & Explosion Division, uniformed police officers, detectives assigned to District Attorney Offices, Precinct Detective Units and other units within the Department.

ARSON MAJOR CASE SQUAD  
ACTIVITY SUMMARY  
July 1, 1984 to June 30, 1985

	<u>Bronx/Manh.</u>	<u>B'klyn/Queens/S.I.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Cases Accepted	45	32	77
Cases Cleared by Squad Arrests	4	3	7*
Other Results Obtained	2	2	4**
Referred to Other Units	0	2	2***
Cases Closed Without Results	21	14	35
Cases Still Active	18	11	29****

\*Of the seven cases cleared by arrest, one involved a religious location, one a clothing store, one a supermarket, one a public school, one a multiple dwelling, and two policy locations.

\*\*The B'klyn/Queens/S.I. Squad assisted the 83 Pct. Detective Unit in an Arson/Burglary which resulted in the death of the perpetrator believed responsible for the crime and also assisted the 90 Pct. Detective Unit in an arson of a social club which resulted in five D.O.A.'s and which was subsequently cleared by arrest. The Bronx/Manh. Squad assisted the 40 Pct. Detective Unit (bomb placed in a public school--arrest made) and the 7 Pct. Detective Unit (arson/homicide--one D.O.A.--arrest made).

\*\*\*Two cases involving the arson of a convenience store and kidnapping of its owner who is believed by the Joint Organized Crime Task Force to have organized crime connections were referred to other units.

\*\*\*\*Of these 29 active cases, arrests are expected in nine cases.

Types of Locations for Cases Accepted

	<u>Bronx/Manh.</u>	<u>B'klyn/Queens/S.I.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Supermarkets	8	8	16
Other Commercial Properties	29	14	43
Gov't Buildings/Properties	3	2	5
Houses of Worship	2	6	8
Policy Locations	3	2	5

Source: Arson & Explosion Division, N.Y.C. Police Department.

DEPARTMENT of HOUSING PRESERVATION  
and DEVELOPMENT



Anthony B. Gliedman  
Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The aim of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's Division of Demolition is to remove the danger and deterioration of open vacant buildings which are often the target of fire-setting vandals and arson profiteers.

The New York City Administrative Code requires the owner of a vacant building either to seal it or to guard it continuously. If the owner fails to comply, the Buildings Department may certify the building as unsafe, dangerous to life and health and a public nuisance. All unsafe structures which are not secured by their owners, as mandated by law, may be treated under this program, whether they are privately or City owned and either residential or commercial.

Over the past seven years, HPD has demolished approximately 12,000 buildings, tin-sealed 22,000 and masonry-sealed another 8,000. Since 1979, the first full year of HPD's masonry seal program (and coincidentally, the year when fire marshals began to investigate suspicious vacant building fires), vacant building arsons have declined almost 50%, from 3,101 in 1979, to 1,584 in 1984. When arson peaked in New York in 1976, 76% of all arsons occurred in vacant buildings (10,497 out of 13,752). In 1984, only 31% of structural arsons were located in vacant properties (1,584 out of 5,104).

Buildings Sealed And Demolished By HPD

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. Buildings Demolished</u>	<u>No. Buildings Masonry Sealed</u>	<u>No. Buildings Tin Sealed</u>	<u>Total</u>
1983	1,158	1,815	818	3,791
1984	1,619	1,474	679	3,772

Source: HPD, Bureau of Demolition; HPD, Division of Code Enforcement.

Although the total number of buildings treated by HPD declined slightly in 1984, the most effective anti-arson measures (demolitions and masonry seals), showed a combined increase of four percent over 1983's total.

In addition to reducing the risk of arson in these vacant buildings, HPD has also established numerous programs to maintain housing and prevent the deterioration of reclaimable dwelling units. Its eleven Neighborhood Preservation Offices scattered throughout the City work with landlords, tenants and community groups to break the cycle of housing abandonment so conducive to arson. In order to assist in housing rehabilitation, HPD assumes control of many partially occupied and abandoned multi-family dwellings and provides funds to community groups for the repair and maintenance of buildings taken into receivership by HPD.

HPD's Division of Alternative Management Program (DAMP) was created in 1978 to enable tenants, community groups, and local private owners to manage, lease and buy City-owned buildings. In early 1985, a reception was held at City Hall to celebrate the sale of the 10,000th apartment.

In many cases HPD's Litigation Bureau will assist tenant groups in getting a court-appointed administrator to supervise multiple dwellings that have been seriously neglected by their landlords; in some instances the Bureau itself will initiate the action in Housing Court.

Another critically important function is performed by HPD's Office of Rent and Housing Maintenance, which enforces the Multiple Dwelling Law and the Housing Maintenance Code through building inspections. It provides technical assistance to building owners, and also initiates civil and criminal actions against landlords who are unwilling to comply with the law.

HPD also administers special loan programs geared toward revitalization and the creation of housing units throughout the City. The HPD Inspector General monitors applications from property owners who apply for loans from these programs. Recognizing that some unscrupulous landlords might use fire as an instrument to force tenants from buildings or might allow a housing condition to deteriorate to a point that it is conducive to fire, the anti-Harassment Unit requests fire histories of applicants' properties from the Arson Strike Force as part of its investigation. Property owners wishing to convert multiple dwellings to cooperative apartments must receive Certificates of No Harassment from HPD before proceeding with their conversion. Fire histories are also scrutinized before such certificates are granted.



*Masonry seals, such as the ones pictured above, have been effective arson prevention devices.*

DEPARTMENT of FINANCE



Paul Crotty  
Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

The Department of Finance contributes to arson control by providing arson investigators and researchers with on-line access to its Real Property computer files (containing sales, ownership and tax information on all privately owned real property in the City) and through the operation of its Fire Insurance Proceeds Unit.

The Fire Insurance Proceeds Law was enacted in 1977 by New York State and was further strengthened in 1981 with the passage of additional legislation which provided computerized fire insurance claim information to municipal taxing authorities. The law allows the City to place a lien against fire insurance payments for properties which are in tax arrears for one year or more. Since there is a long recognized correlation between fire/arson incidence and buildings which are experiencing disinvestment, it is felt that denying full or partial payment of fire insurance monies to owners of tax delinquent properties--whether or not the fire was landlord precipitated--will not only remove an arson-for-profit incentive, but will also serve to discourage insureds from creating conditions conducive to all fire activity.

The table below presents data on the number of liens issued and collected, and monies recouped by the City, since 7/1/79. In interpreting the lien and dollar amounts collected, it is important to consider that there are a number of reasons why a lien or its full value may not be collected, including: refunds for renovation (174 reimbursements for restoration of fire-damaged properties had been issued through 1984); insurance coverage which is less than the lien amount; and, most frequently, release of lien due to first priority of mortgagee. This last reason has been frequently identified by investigators as a device used by arson profiteers to circumvent the law: by assigning the mortgage to a "straw" party, most commonly an associate of the owner, the priority creditor status of the mortgagee defeats the City's lien. Legislation to close this loophole in the law has been drafted by the City and introduced in the State Legislature.

The proposed bill would more clearly discriminate between legitimate lending institutions, such as banks, and "straw" mortgagees.

The Fire Insurance Proceeds Unit dramatically increased the effectiveness of its lien collection activities during Fiscal 1985, recouping 157 percent more monies than in Fiscal 1984. The Unit is now in the process of being fully computerized, which should help to improve the percentage and dollar value of liens collected.

FIRE INSURANCE PROCEEDS UNIT

<u>Fiscal</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>No. Liens</u> <u>Issued</u>	<u>Dollar</u> <u>Value</u>	<u>No. Liens</u> <u>Collected</u>	<u>Dollar</u> <u>Value</u>
1980	735	\$16,400,000	249	\$ 730,000
1981	862	25,300,000	281	1,200,000
1982	870	68,800,000	310	1,100,000
1983	825	31,600,000	384	1,400,000
1984	691	50,000,000	354	1,600,000
<u>1985</u>	<u>638</u>	<u>21,122,602</u>	<u>365</u>	<u>4,110,344</u>
Total	5,666	\$213,222,602	1,943	\$11,339,003

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Source: Department of Finance, Fire Insurance Proceeds Unit.

HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION



George Gross  
Commissioner

## HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION

The Human Resources Administration and the Department of Housing Preservation and Development share responsibility for providing emergency housing to families who have been displaced from their homes. HRA's Crisis Intervention Services also provides social services to all families in emergency housing. Approximately 20 percent of families provided with temporary housing fall under the jurisdiction of HPD's Division of Relocation, which services those families displaced by fires or vacate orders. At the close of Fiscal 1985, it is estimated that five to ten percent of the 700 families currently serviced by the Division of Relocation had been displaced by arson fires. (HRA is providing temporary housing to 2,900 families who have lost their homes primarily due to eviction by a primary tenant or for non-payment of rent.)

In order to deter arson among recipients of public assistance who might consider setting fires in order to collect replacement funds for fire-damaged furniture, clothes and other property or to be relocated in better housing, HRA established liaison with the NYC Fire Department's Bureau of Fire Investigation in 1979. If it is determined that a fire which occurred in the premises of an individual who is on income maintenance was intentionally set, neither the NYC Housing Authority nor HPD will rent units to a family involved in the arson. Although no hard and fast figures are available to determine the relative frequency of such arson fires, HRA and fire officials believe that there has been a substantial decline in welfare fraud/relocation fires, particularly during the past three years. Undoubtedly, the reduced number of available low income apartments in general, long waiting lists to obtain NYC Housing Authority rental units, and HRA's coordination with the Fire Department prior to issuing replacement funds have all had an impact on reducing such arsons.

During 1984, there were 1,288 requests processed by HRA's Division of Liaison and Adjustment within its Department of Income Maintenance for replacement funds as the result of fire damage to the furniture and belongings of public assistance recipients. Of that number, 66 (or 5.1%) requests were determined to have been the result of arson and were therefore denied.

## ASF COORDINATOR'S OFFICE



Joseph G. Enright  
Deputy Coordinator/  
Director of Research



Stephen M. Rosario  
Assistant Coordinator/  
Counsel

## ARSON STRIKE FORCE COORDINATOR'S OFFICE

The Arson Strike Force (ASF), created in 1978 by City Council legislation and signed into law by Mayor Koch, is mandated to "foster greater cooperation between the various city agencies in the battle to control the arson problem that confronts the City." The Strike Force's Board of Directors comprises the Criminal Justice Coordinator, a Special Advisor to the Mayor, and the Commissioners of five city agencies: Fire, Police, Housing Preservation and Development, Finance and Human Resources. The ASF Coordinator's Office, located within the Office of the Mayor, has an annual budget of approximately 500,000 dollars in tax levy monies, and is comprised of 19 full time staff members and nine part time employees.

The mission of the ASF Coordinator's Office is to assist in reducing the incidence of arson in New York City by: fostering cooperation among the government agencies involved in anti-arson activities; collecting, analyzing and disseminating arson data to government agencies and the public; and reporting findings and making recommendations regarding anti-arson strategies to government agencies and the public.

Operating under and reporting to the Criminal Justice Coordinator, the ASF Coordinator's Office works closely with: the Fire Department's Bureau of Fire Investigation; the Police Department's Arson and Explosion Division; the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's Demolition Division; the Finance Department's Fire Insurance Proceeds Unit; and the Human Resources Administration's Crisis Intervention Services. Through the efforts of these agencies and publicly funded community groups, structural arson has been reduced by 50% since 1978.

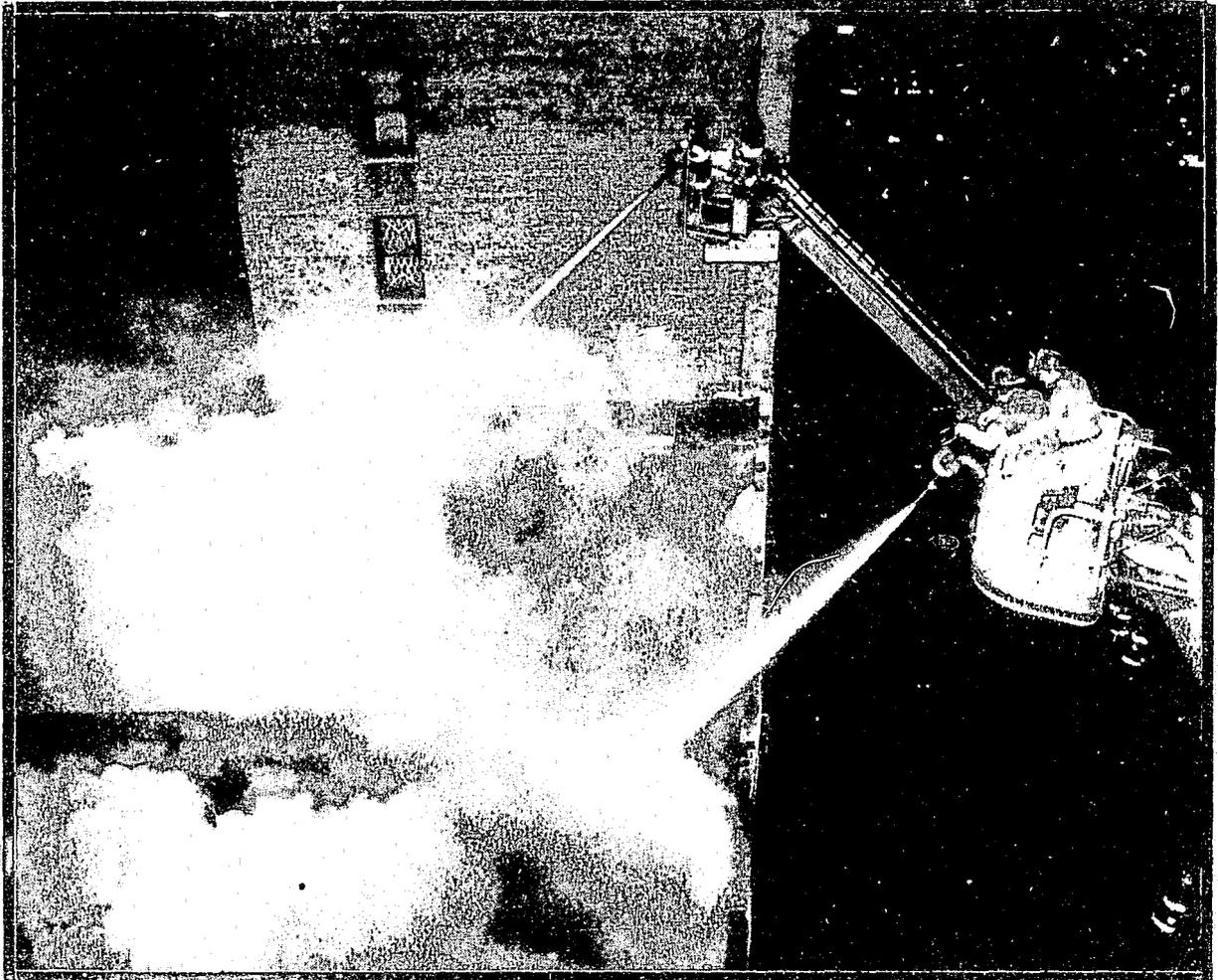
The Intelligence Unit, which accesses eight building specific computer files, serviced 2,634 information requests from 25 city, state and federal agencies during 1984, a substantial increase over 1983's total. The Title Search Unit conducted 3,748 Local Law and Unsafe Building title searches for the Department of Buildings during 1984, an 11 percent decline from 1983's total of 4,215 title

searches. (It is anticipated that administration of the Title Search Unit will be entirely assumed by the Department of Finance during Fiscal 1986.)

The Research and Analysis Unit published an exploratory study of imprisoned N.Y.C. arsonists in December. An annual statistical report analyzing arson complaint and arrest data on city, borough and community district levels was published for the first time in May. The Public Affairs Unit distributed two informational/statistical newsletters to 2,000 individuals involved in arson prevention and investigation. It also serviced 100 arson-related complaints during Fiscal 1985, most of which concerned vacant buildings, landlord harassment or fire prevention. The complaints were referred to appropriate agencies for action. The monitoring of anti-arson programs of three community groups in receipt of community development funds continued in Fiscal 1985. Five such groups will be programmatically monitored in Fiscal 1986.

A revision of the state penal law, part of the ASF legislative package introduced in the State Legislature, became effective 11/1/84, adding two new elements to the arson first degree statute. Individuals who set fires for financial advantage or fires that cause serious physical injury can now be prosecuted for this Class A-1 felony, which carries a minimum sentence of 15 years to life in prison.

N.Y.C. ARSON TRENDS  
1967 - 1984



New York City  
Crime Trends 1980 - 84  
Number of Offenses Known to Police

In comparing arson to the seven other major felonies which comprise the index offenses in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, only burglary experienced a greater decline in New York City over the past five years.

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>% Change</u> <u>1983 - 1984</u>	<u>% Change</u> <u>1980 - 1984</u>
Murder/Non-negligent							
Manslaughter	1,812	1,826	1,668	1,622	1,450	- 10.6%	-20.0%
Forcible Rape	3,711	3,862	3,547	3,662	3,829	+ 4.6%	+3.2%
Robbery	100,550	107,475	95,944	84,043	79,541	- 5.4%	-20.9%
Aggravated Assault	43,476	43,783	42,784	43,326	47,472	+ 9.6%	+ 9.2%
Burglary	210,703	205,825	172,794	143,698	128,687	- 10.4%	-38.9%
Larceny/Theft	249,421	258,369	264,400	253,801	250,759	- 12.0%	+ .5%
Motor Vehicle Theft	100,478	104,706	107,430	92,725	88,478	- 4.6%	- 11.9%
Arson	<u>8,659</u>	<u>8,105</u>	<u>7,249</u>	<u>6,094</u>	<u>5,885</u>	- 3.4%	- 32.0%
Total	718,810	733,951	695,816	628,971	606,101	- 3.6%	- 15.7%

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Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports.  
(Arson totals are provided by N.Y.C. Fire Department, Bureau of Fire Investigation.)

Structural Arson Fires in N.Y.C.  
1960 - 1984

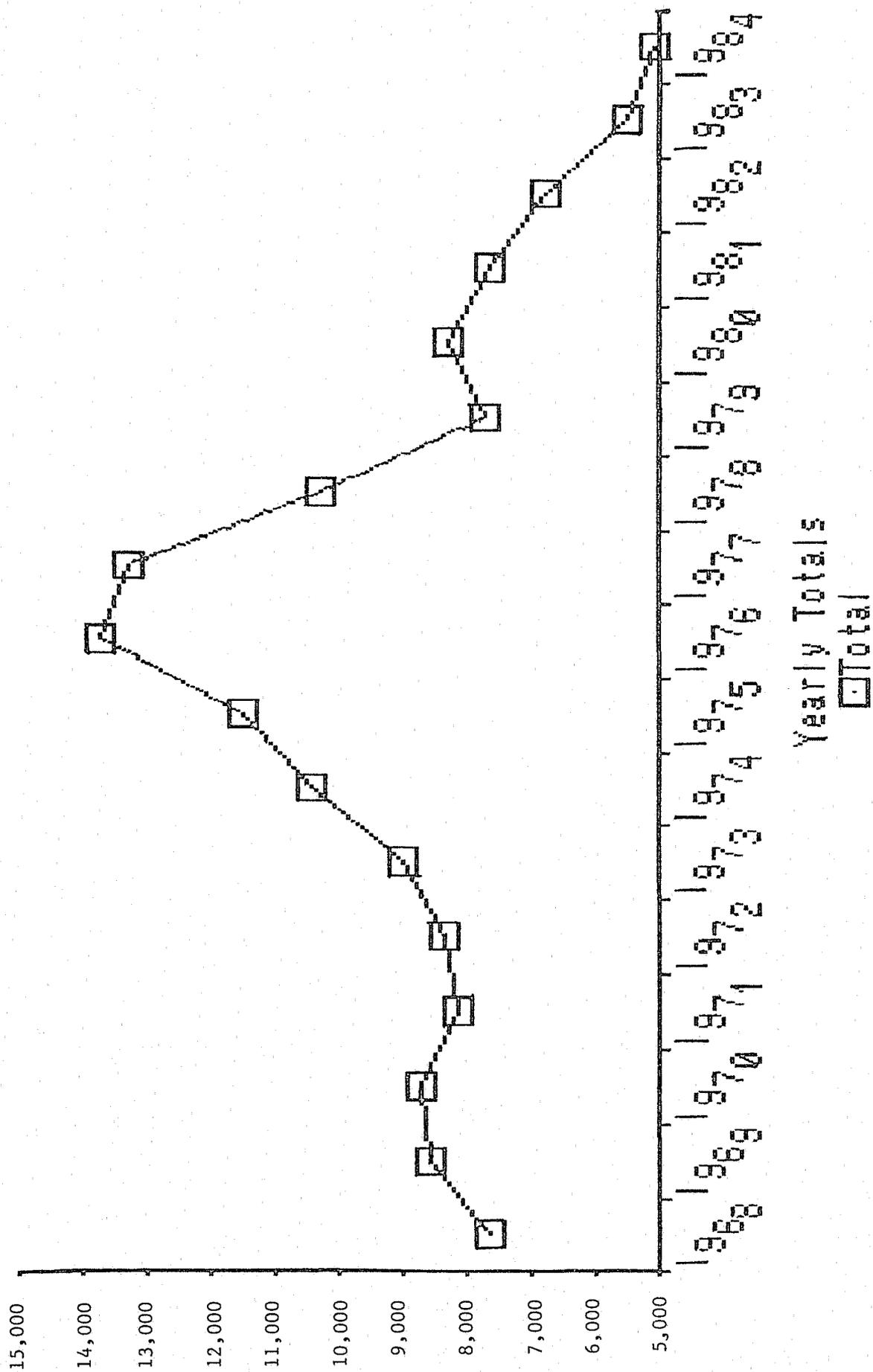
Like most other crime categories, arson increased dramatically in the mid-1960's. After reaching its peak in the mid-1970's, arson declined steadily, particularly in vacant structures. The incidence of incendiary fires in empty buildings dropped to its lowest level in the past quarter century during 1984, a fall-off of 85% since 1976. Structural arson is now at its lowest level since 1967.

Year	O C C U P I E D			V A C A N T			Total	% Change
	Number	% of Total	% Change	Number*	% of Total	% Change		
1960	799	(24.5)	+ 3.2	2,462	(75.5)	+27.6	3,261	+20.6
1961	786	(26.5)	- 1.6	2,183	(73.5)	-11.3	2,969	- 9.0
1962	876	(30.4)	+11.5	2,005	(69.6)	- 8.2	2,881	- 3.0
1963	1,007	(35.7)	+15.0	1,810	(64.3)	- 9.7	2,817	- 2.2
1964	950	(32.1)	- 5.7	2,012	(67.9)	+11.2	2,962	+ 5.1
1965	1,184	(32.4)	+24.6	2,467	(67.6)	+22.6	3,651	+10.5
1966	1,414	(32.0)	+19.4	3,007	(68.0)	+21.9	4,421	+17.4
1967	1,670	(32.8)	+18.1	3,421	(67.2)	+13.8	5,091	+15.2
1968	1,997	(25.9)	+19.6	5,711	(74.1)	+40.1	7,708	+51.4
1969	2,585	(30.1)	+29.4	5,992	(69.9)	+11.3	8,577	+11.3
1970	2,419	(27.7)	- 6.4	6,322	(72.3)	+ 5.5	8,741	+ 1.9
1971	1,888	(23.1)	-22.0	6,302	(76.9)	- .3	8,190	- 6.3
1972	2,691	(32.1)	+42.5	5,686	(67.9)	- 9.8	8,377	+ 2.3
1973	3,093	(34.3)	+14.9	5,920	(65.7)	+ 4.1	9,013	+ 7.6
1974	3,501	(33.5)	+13.2	6,940	(66.5)	+17.2	10,441	+15.8
1975	2,592	(22.5)	-26.0	8,931	(77.5)	+28.7	11,523	+10.4
1976	3,255	(23.7)	+25.6	10,497	(76.3)	+17.5	13,752	+19.3
1977	4,573	(34.3)	+40.5	8,775	(65.7)	-16.4	13,348	- 2.9
1978	4,727	(45.9)	+ 3.4	5,575	(54.1)	-36.5	10,302	-22.8
1979	4,653	(60.0)	- 2.9	3,101	(40.0)	-43.7	7,754	-24.7
1980	4,863	(58.5)	+ 4.5	3,449	(41.5)	+11.2	8,312	+ 7.2
1981	4,484	(58.1)	- 7.8	3,223	(41.9)	- 6.5	7,707	- 7.3
1982	3,993	(58.7)	-11.0	2,813	(41.3)	-12.7	6,806	-11.7
1983	3,686	(66.3)	- 7.7	1,871	(33.7)	-33.5	5,557	-18.4
1984	3,520	(69.0)	- 4.5	1,584	(31.0)	-15.3	5,104	-8.2

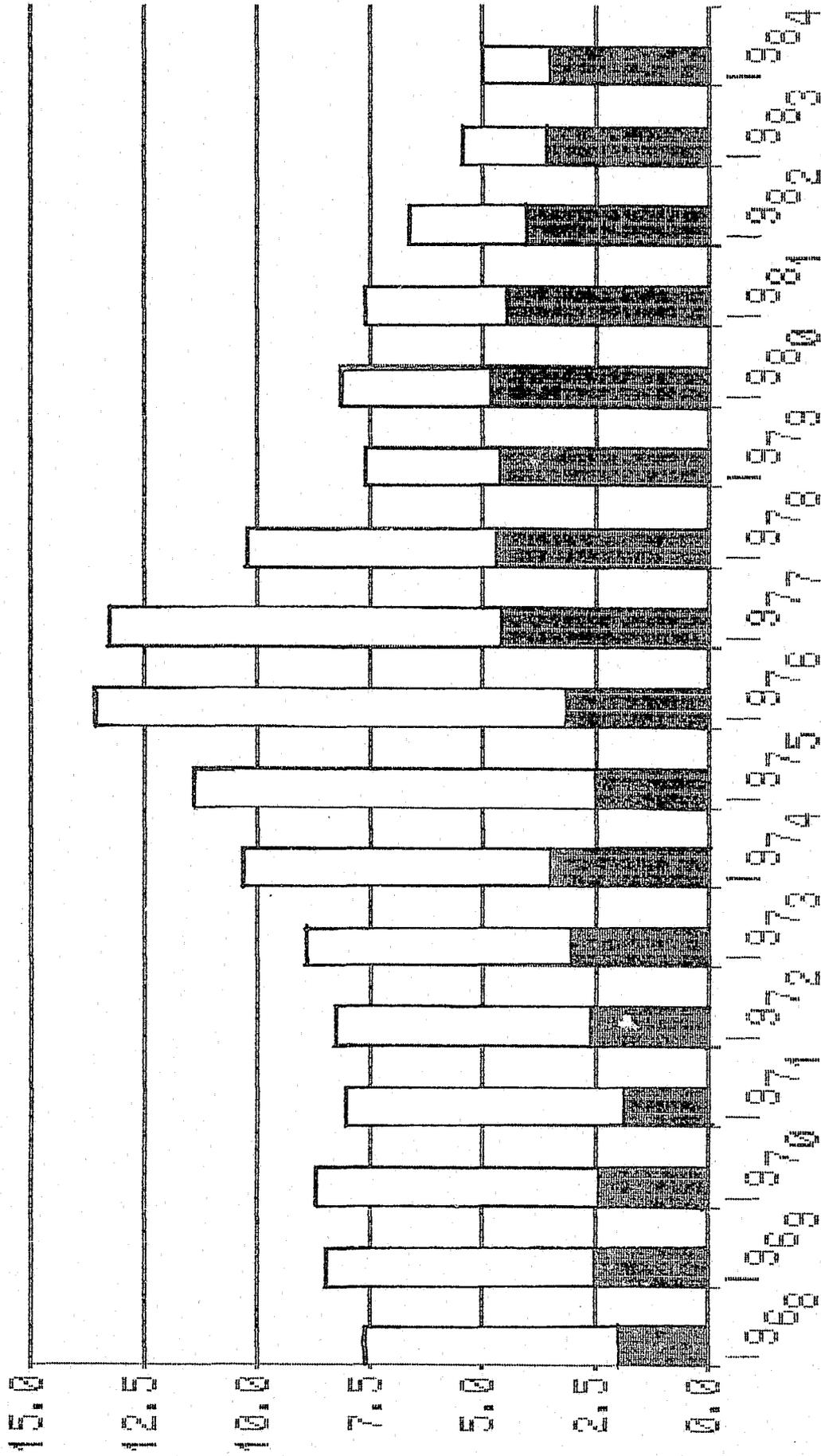
\*Prior to March of 1979 the Bureau of Fire Investigation estimated vacant building arson totals by arbitrarily classifying 90% of all fires that originated in vacant buildings as incendiary.

Source: NYC Fire Department.

# STRUCTURAL ARSON IN N.Y.C.



# Structural Arson in N.Y.C.



■ OCCUPIED □ VACANT

Structural Fires\*  
1970 - 1984

In 1976, one out of every five structural fires occurred in vacant buildings. By 1984, less than one in ten fires occurred in vacant structures. There has been a 21.5% decline in all structural fires since 1980 (-16.9% in occupied structures and -51.6% in vacant structures), and an even more dramatic decline of 39% in all structural fires since the peak year of 1976 (-29.4% in occupied buildings and -76.0% in vacant buildings).

Year	O C C U P I E D			V A C A N T			Total	% Change
	Number	% Change	% of Total	Vacant	% Change	% of Total		
1970	40,722	-	85.3	7,024	-	14.7	47,746	-
1971	41,902	+ 2.9	85.7	7,002	- .3	14.3	48,904	+ 2.4
1972	41,427	- 1.1	86.8	6,318	- 9.8	13.2	47,745	- 2.3
1973	42,955	+ 3.7	86.7	6,578	+ 4.1	13.3	49,533	+ 3.7
1974	44,457	+ 3.5	84.7	8,016	+21.9	15.3	52,473	+ 5.9
1975	45,033	+ 1.3	82.0	9,924	+23.8	18.0	54,957	+ 4.7
1976	45,147	+ .3	79.5	11,663	+17.5	20.5	56,810	+ 3.3
1977	41,191	- 8.8	80.9	9,750	-16.4	19.1	50,941	-10.3
1978	38,476	- 6.6	86.1	6,194	-36.5	13.9	44,670	-12.3
1979	37,374	- 2.9	86.8	5,698	- 8.0	13.2	43,072	- 3.5
1980	38,339	+ 2.6	86.8	5,812	+ 2.0	13.2	44,151	+ 2.5
1981	37,018	- 3.4	87.3	5,370	- 7.6	12.7	42,388	- 3.9
1982	34,593	- 6.6	88.1	4,658	-13.3	11.9	39,251	- 7.4
1983	33,001	- 4.6	90.4	3,504	-24.8	9.6	36,525	- 4.9
1984	31,875	- 3.4	91.9	2,798	-20.1	8.1	34,673	- 5.1

\* Includes all fires - accidental and incendiary - that occurred in buildings.

Source: NYC Fire Department.

Structural Arsons Per Structural Fires  
1970 to 1984

The number of total structural fires and the number of arson fires both peaked in 1976. In 1977, 26.2% of all structural fires that occurred in the City were incendiary. In 1984, the percentage of incendiary fires had declined to a 15 year low of 14.7%. Since 1976, all structural fires have decreased by 39.0%, while structural arson has declined at an even greater rate of 62.9%.

	<u># of Structural Arsons</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u># of Structural Fires*</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Arson Per Fire Ratio</u>
1970	8,741	-	47,746	-	.1830
1971	8,190	- 6.3	48,904	+ 2.4	.1674
1972	8,377	+ 2.3	47,745	- 2.3	.1754
1973	9,013	+ 8.1	49,533	+ 3.7	.1819
1974	10,441	+15.8	52,473	+ 5.9	.1989
1975	11,523	+10.4	54,957	+ 4.7	.2096
1976	13,752	+19.3	56,810	+ 3.3	.2420
1977	13,348	- 2.9	50,941	-10.3	.2620
1978	10,302	-22.8	44,670	-12.3	.2306
1979	7,754	-24.7	43,072	- 3.5	.1800
1980	8,312	+ 7.2	44,151	+ 2.5	.1882
1981	7,707	- 7.3	42,388	- 3.9	.1818
1982	6,806	-11.7	39,251	- 7.4	.1733
1983	5,557	-18.4	36,525	- 4.9	.1521
1984	5,104	- 8.2	34,673	- 5.1	.1472

\* Includes all structural fires, both incendiary and accidental.

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Source: NYC Fire Department.

Percentage of Structural Fires (Occupied/Vacant)  
Classified as Incendiary, 1970 - 1984

Since March of 1979, when fire marshals began investigating all suspicious fires, the percentage of fires in vacant buildings that were determined as incendiary has fluctuated between 54% and 60%. It is likely however, that the proportion of intentionally set fires in vacant buildings is actually much higher. Fire marshals deployed as Red Caps—who investigate nearly all fires in their areas of operation—find that approximately 80% of such fires are incendiary. In non-Red Cap areas, however—where fire marshals are called in to investigate only if the battalion chief considers the fire to be suspicious—the arson per vacant building fire ratio is closer to 52%. A national study commissioned by the U.S. Department of Justice in 1980 found that in cities where all fires (occupied and vacant) are investigated by fire marshals, the arson discovery rate was approximately 10% higher than in cities where battalion chiefs select cases for investigation.

Year	O C C U P I E D				V A C A N T				T O T A L	
	Number of Fires	% of Total	Number Incendiary	% Incendiary	Number of Fires	% of Total	Number Incendiary*	% Incendiary*	Number	% Incendiary
1970	40,722	(85.3)	2,419	( 5.9)	7,024	(14.7)	6,322	(90)	47,746	(18.3)
1971	41,902	(85.7)	1,888	( 4.5)	7,002	(14.3)	6,302	(90)	48,904	(16.7)
1972	41,427	(86.8)	2,691	( 6.5)	6,318	(13.2)	5,686	(90)	47,745	(17.5)
1973	42,955	(86.7)	3,093	( 7.2)	6,578	(13.3)	5,920	(90)	49,533	(18.2)
1974	44,457	(84.7)	3,501	( 7.9)	8,016	(15.3)	6,940	(90)	52,473	(19.9)
1975	45,033	(82.0)	2,592	( 5.8)	9,924	(18.0)	8,931	(90)	54,957	(21.0)
1976	45,147	(79.5)	3,255	( 7.2)	11,663	(20.5)	10,497	(90)	56,810	(24.2)
1977	41,191	(80.9)	4,573	(11.1)	9,750	(19.1)	8,775	(90)	50,941	(26.2)
1978	38,476	(86.1)	4,727	(12.3)	6,194	(13.9)	5,575	(90)	44,670	(23.1)
1979	37,374	(86.8)	4,653	(12.4)	5,698	(13.2)	3,101	(54.4)	43,072	(18.0)
1980	38,339	(86.8)	4,863	(12.7)	5,812	(13.2)	3,449	(59.3)	44,151	(18.8)
1981	37,018	(87.3)	4,484	(12.1)	5,370	(12.7)	3,223	(60.0)	42,388	(18.2)
1982	34,593	(88.1)	3,993	(11.5)	4,658	(11.9)	2,813	(60.4)	39,251	(17.3)
1983	33,001	(90.4)	3,686	(11.2)	3,504	( 9.6)	1,871	(53.4)	36,525	(15.2)
1984	31,875	(91.9)	3,520	(11.0)	2,798	( 8.1)	1,584	(56.6)	34,673	(14.7)

\*Prior to March of 1979, the Bureau of Fire Investigation estimated vacant building arson incidence by arbitrarily classifying 90% of all fires that originated in vacant buildings as incendiary.

Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.

Arson Categories  
1967 to 1984

The total number of arsons declined by 3% in 1984, which compares favorably to nationwide figures released by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program that show the incidence of arson remaining unchanged from 1983 to 1984. An 8% decline in structural arson was partially offset by the 50% increase in motor vehicle arsons. The 5,885 arsons recorded by the Fire Department in 1984 was the lowest yearly total since 1967.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Structural Arsons</u>	<u>Motor Vehicle Arsons*</u>	<u>Other Arsons**</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1967	5,091	-	-	5,091	+ 15.2
1968	7,708	-	-	7,708	+ 51.4
1969	8,577	-	-	8,577	+ 11.3
1970	8,741	-	-	8,741	+ 1.9
1971	8,190	-	-	8,190	- 6.3
1972	8,377	-	-	8,377	+ 2.3
1973	9,013	-	-	9,013	+ 7.6
1974	10,441	-	-	10,441	+ 15.8
1975	11,523	-	-	11,523	+ 10.4
1976	13,752	-	-	13,752	+ 19.3
1977	13,348	-	-	13,348	- 2.9
1978	10,302	-	-	10,302	- 22.8
1979	7,754	-	-	7,754	- 24.7
1980	8,312	347	-	8,659	+ 14.0
1981	7,707	398	-	8,105	- 6.3
1982	6,806	443	-	7,249	- 10.5
1983	5,557	490	47	6,094	- 15.9
1984	5,104	737	44	5,885	- 3.4

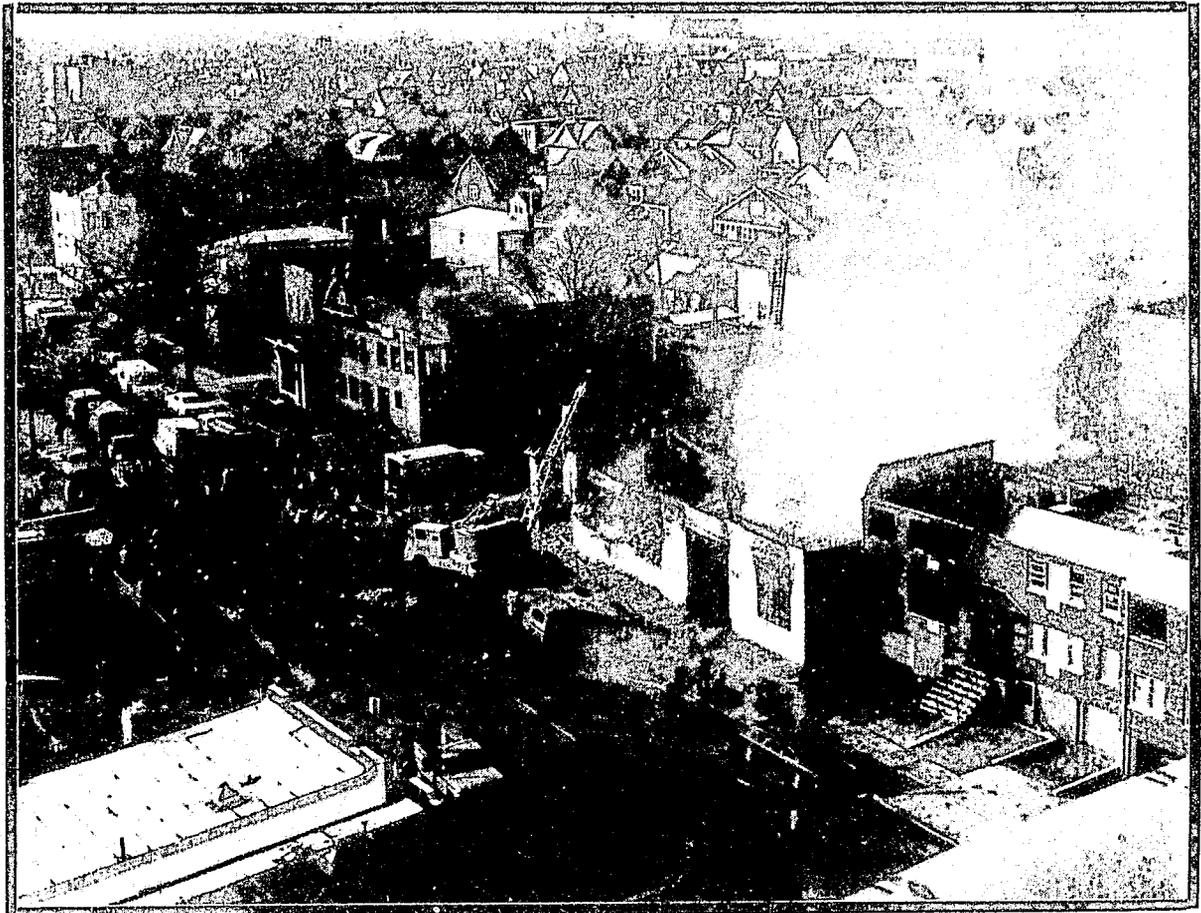
\*Prior to the 1979 amendment of the NYS Penal Law, the intentional burning of a motor vehicle was not classified as arson.

\*\*"Other" arsons include incendiary fires in sheds, dumpsters, mailboxes, etc.

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Source: NYC Fire Department.

# 1984 CITY-WIDE ARSON



Structural Arson By Month & Quarter, 1980 to 1984\*

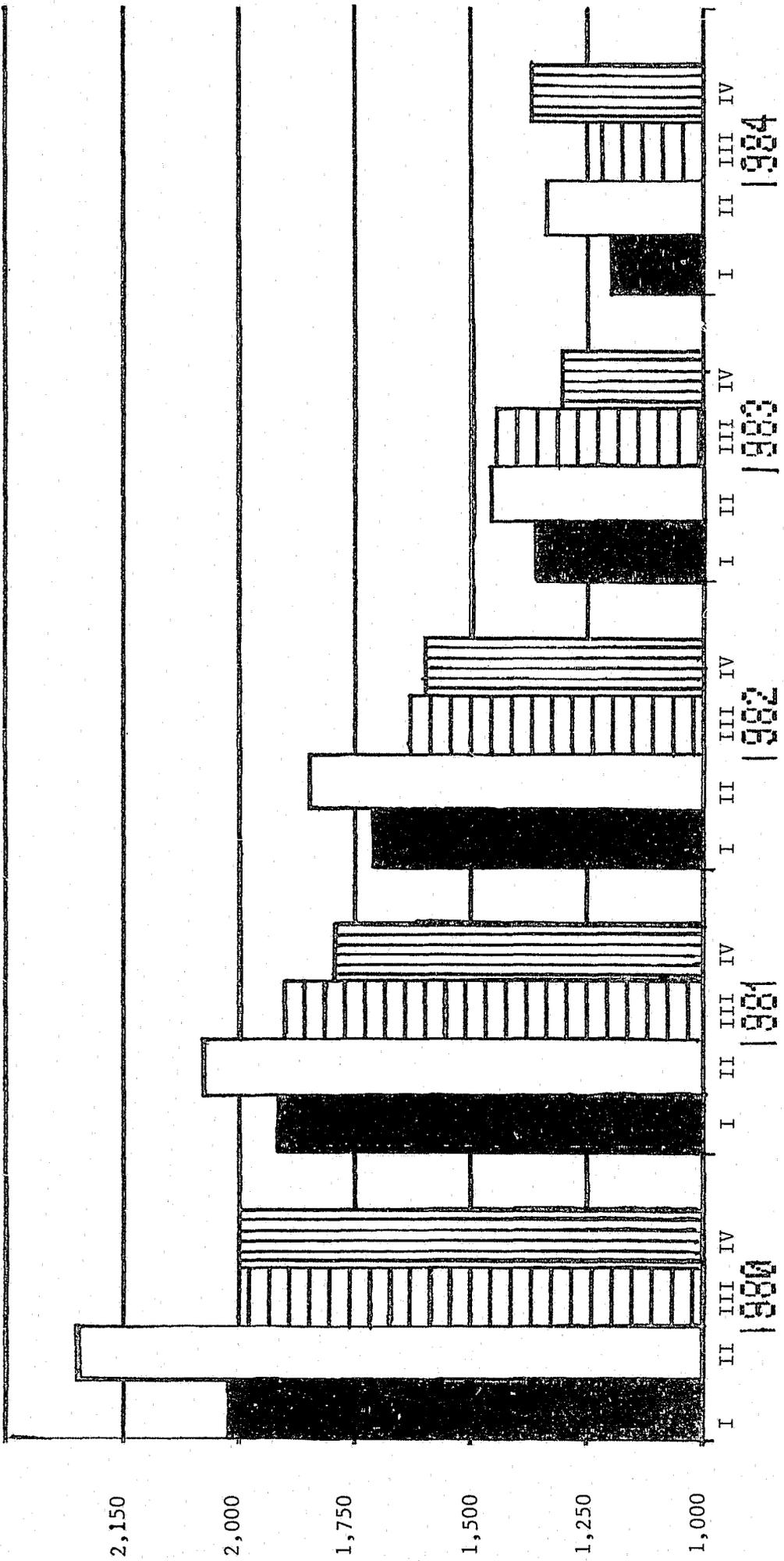
After 15 consecutive quarters of decline, structural arson rose 5% during the last quarter of 1984, compared to 1983's Fall total (an increase of 64 arsons). In general, arson peaks in the Spring and reaches a low point in the Fall. In 1984, however, structural arson peaked in the Fall and was least frequent in the Winter months.

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
January	711	641	520	497	414
February	627	580	582	403	336
March	688	697	612	466	447
<hr/>					
1st Quarter	2,026	1,918	1,714	1,366	1,197
% Change(Yr. to yr.)	--	- 5.3%	-10.6%	-20.3%	-12.4%
<hr/>					
April	712	679	657	490	420
May	803	735	656	491	514
June	837	666	539	479	406
<hr/>					
2nd Quarter	2,352	2,080	1,852	1,460	1,340
% Change(Yr. to yr.)	--	-11.6%	-11.0%	-21.2%	- 8.2%
<hr/>					
July	678	685	600	464	426
August	664	641	537	476	373
September	647	584	502	515	422
<hr/>					
3rd Quarter	1,989	1,910	1,639	1,455	1,221
% Change(Yr. to yr.)	--	- 4.0%	-14.2%	-11.2%	-16.1%
<hr/>					
October	650	641	560	462	446
November	701	569	531	454	470
December	655	591	509	396	460
<hr/>					
4th Quarter	2,006	1,801	1,600	1,312	1,376
% Change(Yr. to yr.)	--	-10.2%	-11.2%	-18.0%	+ 4.9%

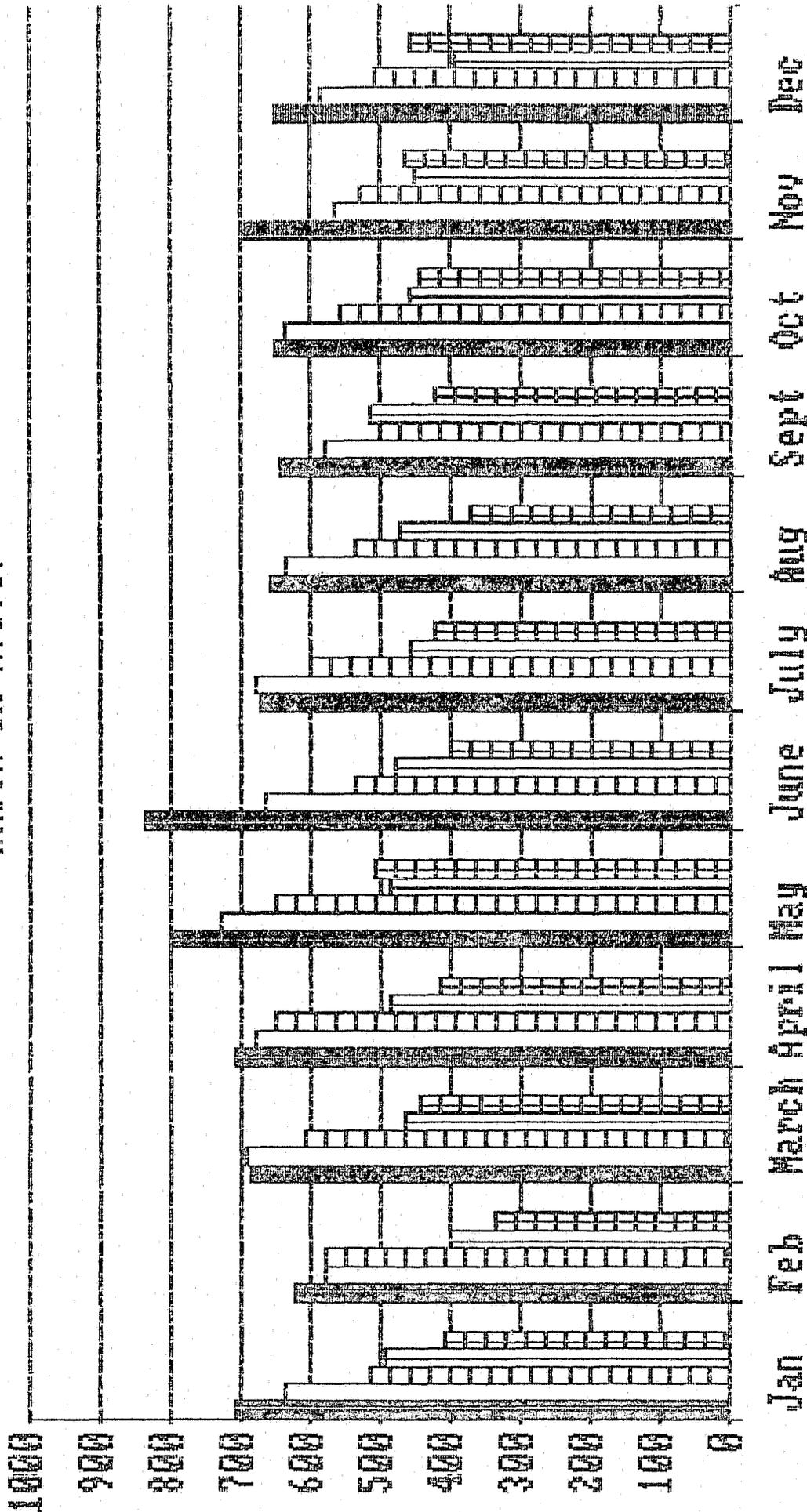
\*These figures include a small number of incendiary fires in small structures (less than 1% of any total for any month in any year) which would not technically be classified as arson under N.Y.C. Penal Law, unless the fire extended to a building or automobile.

Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.

# STRUCTURAL ARSON BY QUARTER



# ARSON IN N.Y.C.



Arson By Month  
 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984

## ARSON BY BUILDING TYPE

### Building Type



Multiple Dwelling



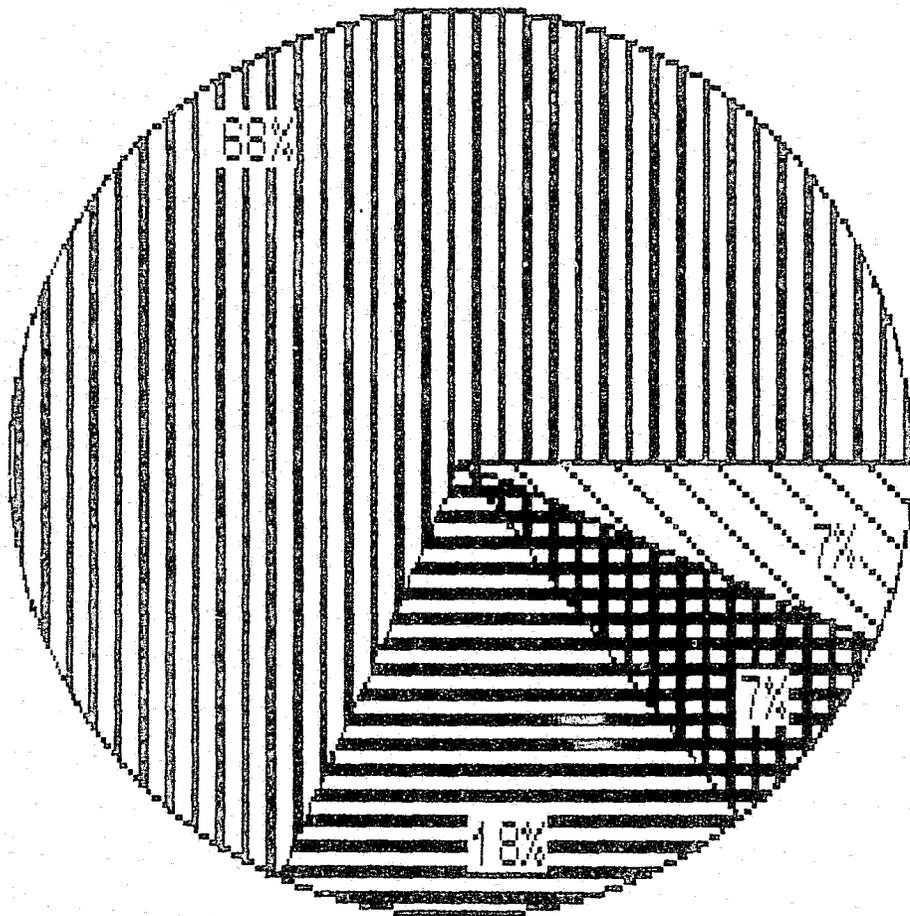
Indust./Commercial



One&Two Family House



Public Buildings



### Building Type

Multiple dwellings continue to provide the most frequent location for structural arson (68% in 1984 vs. 69% in 1983), followed by industrial/commercial buildings (18% in 1984 vs. 17% in 1983), one and two family houses (7% in 1984 vs. 8% in 1983) and public structures (7% in 1984 vs. 6% in 1983).

Structural Arson Incidents  
By Time of Day

Structural arson gradually increases after 7:00 p.m., peaking substantially at midnight. In 1984, twice as many structural arsons were set in the hour after midnight than in 1983. The fewest arsons occurred in both years between 6:00 a.m. and noon.

Hour	1983 % of City Total	1984 % of City Total
Midnight to 12:59 a.m.	5.3%	11.1%
1:00 a.m. to 1:59 a.m.	5.1%	5.0%
2:00 a.m. to 2:59 a.m.	5.4%	4.9%
3:00 a.m. to 3:59 a.m.	5.2%	4.6%
4:00 a.m. to 4:59 a.m.	4.5%	4.7%
5:00 a.m. to 5:59 a.m.	4.1%	3.3%
6:00 a.m. to 6:59 a.m.	2.0%	2.4%
7:00 a.m. to 7:59 a.m.	2.3%	2.0%
8:00 a.m. to 8:59 a.m.	1.9%	2.1%
9:00 a.m. to 9:59 a.m.	2.3%	2.2%
10:00 a.m. to 10:59 a.m.	2.6%	2.5%
11:00 a.m. to 11:59 a.m.	2.7%	2.3%
Noon to 12:59 p.m.	2.7%	3.0%
1:00 p.m. to 1:59 p.m.	3.8%	3.5%
2:00 p.m. to 2:59 p.m.	3.8%	3.5%
3:00 p.m. to 3:59 p.m.	4.2%	3.6%
4:00 p.m. to 4:59 p.m.	4.6%	4.3%
5:00 p.m. to 5:59 p.m.	5.2%	4.6%
6:00 p.m. to 6:59 p.m.	4.6%	4.6%
7:00 p.m. to 7:59 p.m.	4.9%	5.0%
8:00 p.m. to 8:59 p.m.	5.4%	4.6%
9:00 p.m. to 9:59 p.m.	5.6%	5.5%
10:00 p.m. to 10:59 p.m.	5.7%	5.3%
11:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.	6.1%	5.1%
	100%	100%

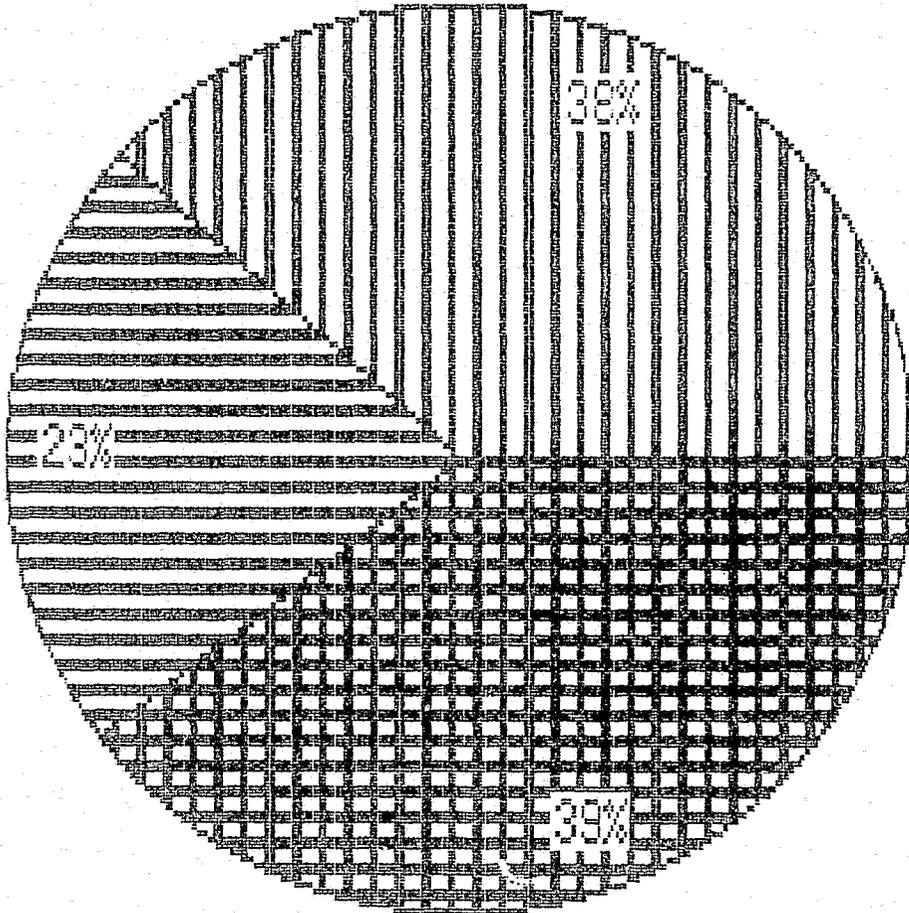
Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.

Occupied building arsons also peaked at midnight (13.2%), while vacant building arsons peaked at 5:00 p.m. (6.9%). Arson in occupied structures was least likely to occur at 7:00 a.m. (2.1%), while arson in vacant buildings was least prevalent at 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. (1.7% for each hour).

STRUCTURAL ARSON INCIDENTS

LAW ENFORCEMENT SHIFT

	2400 x 0800
	0800 x 1600
	1600 x 2400



This pie chart presents the frequency with which structural arson occurs during the three eight hour periods which comprise the traditional law enforcement tours of duty. Structural arson is nearly equally distributed between the 4:00 P.M. to Midnight (39%) and Midnight to 8:00 A.M. (38%) shifts. The 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. shift experienced significantly less arson (23%). The eight hour period between 9:00 P.M. and 5:00 A.M. experienced the most structural arsons (46%) in N.Y.C. during 1984.

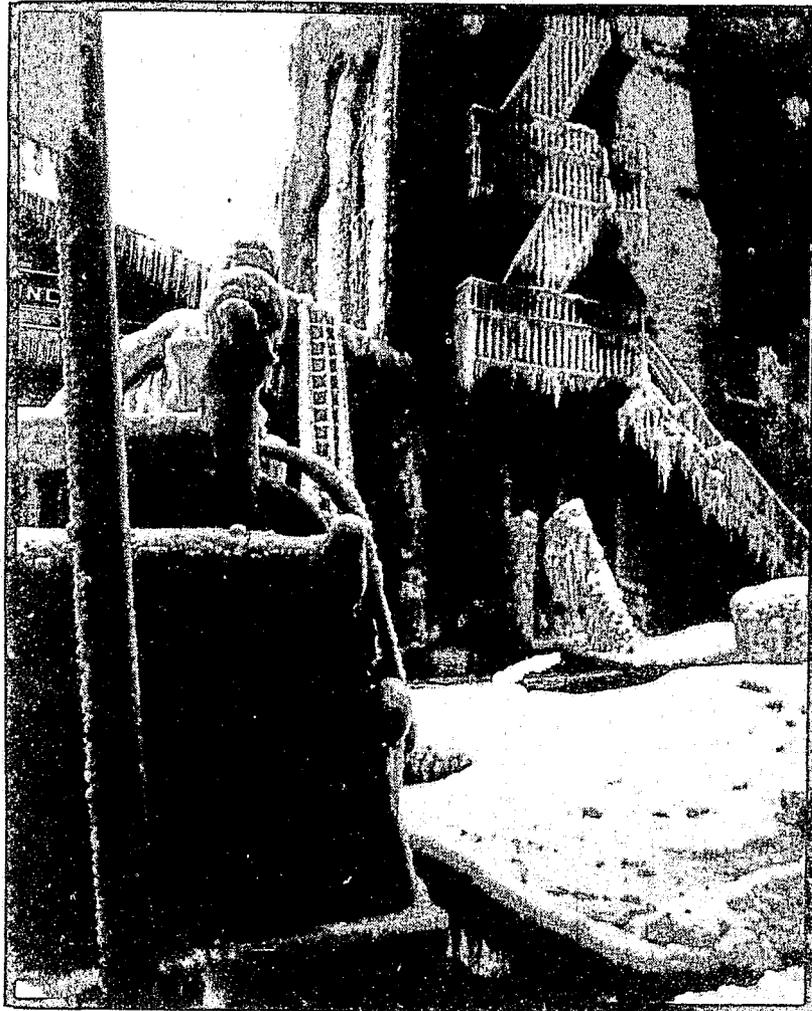
Buildings Experiencing Multiple Arsons Fires

There were a total of 489 buildings which experienced multiple arsons during 1984 for a total of 1,237 arsons. This represents an 11.8% decline from 1983's total of 555 buildings and a 12.9% decline from 1983's total of 1,416 arsons in such buildings. However, since all structural arson declined by 8% during 1984, the amount of City-wide arson cases which multiple arson buildings accounted for remained relatively unchanged (25.4% in 1983 vs. 24.3% in 1984). There were 49 buildings which experienced multiple arsons in 1983 that also experienced multiple arsons during 1984.

<u>Number of Incidents</u>	<u>Number of Buildings</u>	<u>Occupied</u>	<u>Vacant</u>	<u>No. of Arsons Accounted for</u>	<u>% of Total Structural Arsons (n=5,104)</u>
2	354	239	115	708	13.89%
3	80	59	21	240	4.70%
4	30	24	6	120	2.35%
5	12	11	1	60	1.17%
6	3	3	0	18	0.32%
7	3	1	2	21	0.41%
9	3	3	0	27	0.53%
10	2	1	1	20	0.39%
11	1	0	1	11	0.22%
12	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12</u>	0.24%
Total	489	342	147	1,237	24.30%

Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.

1984 BOROUGH - WIDE ARSON



Number and Percent Change of  
Structural Arsons by Borough  
1980 vs. 1984

Over the past five years, structural arson has decreased by 38.6% in New York City. Although continuing to predominate in Brooklyn and the Bronx, structural arson has declined in each of these boroughs by nearly 46%.

Because Manhattan's rate of decline was not as precipitous as the fall off in Brooklyn and the Bronx, Manhattan now accounts for approximately 6% more of the City's structural arson than it did five years ago (15.9% of the City total in 1980 vs. 21.3% of the City total in 1984).

Borough	1980		1984		C H A N G E	
	Number	% of City Total	Number	% of City Total	Number	%
Brooklyn	3,383	40.7%	1,839	36.0%	-1,544	(-45.6%)
Bronx	2,518	30.3%	1,358	26.6%	1,160	(-46.1%)
Manhattan	1,322	15.9%	1,088	21.3%	-234	(-17.7%)
Queens	765	9.2%	587	11.5%	-178	(-23.3%)
Staten Is.	324	3.9%	220	4.3%	-104	(-32.1%)
Total	8,312	100.0%	5,104*	100.0%	-3,208	(-38.6%)

\* Includes 12 arsons for which borough was not identified.

Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.

Number and Percent Change of  
Structural Arson, by Borough  
1983 vs. 1984

In 1984, arson declined for both structural categories in Brooklyn and the Bronx. Arson also decreased in occupied buildings in Queens and in vacant buildings in Manhattan. In Staten Island, arson increased in both categories. It also increased in occupied buildings in Manhattan and in vacant buildings in Queens. From 1983 to 1984, the City-wide decline in structural arson was 8.2%.

O C C U P I E D

Borough	1 9 8 3		1 9 8 4		C H A N G E	
	Number	% of City Total	Number	% of City Total	Number	%
Brooklyn	1,379	37.4%	1,295	36.8%	-84	(- 6.1%)
Bronx	871	23.6%	777	22.1%	-94	(-10.8%)
Manhattan	818	22.2%	839	23.8%	+21	(+ 2.6%)
Queens	496	13.5%	474	13.5%	-22	(- 4.4%)
Staten Is	122	3.3%	135	3.8%	+13	(+10.7%)
Total	3,686	100.0%	3,520	100.0%	-166	(- 4.5%)

V A C A N T

Brooklyn	684	36.6%	544	34.3%	-140	(-20.5%)
Bronx	765	40.9%	581	36.7%	-184	(-24.1%)
Manhattan	260	13.9%	249	15.7%	-11	(- 4.2%)
Queens	82	4.4%	113	7.1%	+31	(+37.8%)
Staten Is	80	4.3%	85	5.4%	+5	(+ 6.3%)
Total	1,871	100.0%	1,584*	100.0%	-287	(-15.3%)

\*Includes 12 arsons for which borough was not identified.

T O T A L S T R U C T U R A L A R S O N

Brooklyn	2,063	37.1%	1,839	36.0%	-224	(-10.9%)
Bronx	1,636	29.4%	1,358	26.6%	-278	(-17.0%)
Manhattan	1,078	19.4%	1,088	21.3%	+10	(+ 0.9%)
Queens	578	10.4%	587	11.5%	+9	(+ 1.6%)
Staten Is.	202	3.6%	220	4.3%	+18	(+ 8.9%)
Total	5,557	100.0%	5,104*	100.0%	-453	(- 8.2%)

\*Includes 12 arsons for which borough was not identified.

Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.

Number and Percent Change of  
Arson in Motor Vehicles, by Borough  
1983 vs. 1984

Motor vehicle arson rose for the fourth straight year in 1984 (+50.4%). This dramatic increase is partially due to improved reporting procedures. Vehicular arson increased in each borough; as in 1983 (+59.6%), Staten Island exhibited the largest year-to-year increase (+240.4%).

Borough	1 9 8 3		1 9 8 4		C H A N G E	
	Number	% of City Total	Number	% of City Total	Number	%
Brooklyn	240	49.0%	270	36.7%	+30	(+12.5%)
Staten Is.	47	9.6%	160	21.7%	+113	(+240.4%)
Bronx	75	15.3%	127	17.2%	+52	(+69.3%)
Queens	94	19.2%	125	16.8%	+31	(+32.9%)
Manhattan	34	6.9%	55	7.5%	+21	(+50.4%)
Total	490	100.0%	737	100.0%	+247	(+50.4%)

Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.

Arson Rate Per  
100,000 Population

The Bronx continues to account for significantly more arson per 100,000 inhabitants than its population total otherwise would indicate. Staten Island, with the least number of inhabitants and the lowest population density, now has the second highest arson rate per 100,000 population.

Citywide, the arson rate per 100,000 inhabitants decreased from 86.2 in 1983 to 83.2 in 1984.

<u>Borough</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Pop. Density (Per Sq. Mile)</u>	<u>No. of Arsons</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Arson Rate per 100,000</u>
Bronx	1,168,972	16.6%	28,209	1,496	25.4%	127.9756
Staten Is.	352,121	5.0%	6,178	387	6.6%	109.9057
Brooklyn	2,230,936	31.5%	27,559	2,115	36.6%	94.8035
Manhattan	1,428,285	20.1%	63,877	1,148	19.5%	80.3761
Queens	1,891,325	26.8%	15,943	725	12.3%	38.3330
Total	7,071,639	100.0%	22,072	5,885*	100.0%	83.0501

\* Includes 14 arsons for which borough was not identified.

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Source: U.S. Bureau of Census (1980); N.Y.C. Fire Department.

Structural Arsons per Structural Fires, 1984 vs. 1983

The percentage of all structural fires caused by arson declined slightly from 15.2% in 1983 to 14.7% in 1984.

As in 1983, Staten Island accounts for the smallest percentage (4.3%) of N.Y.C.'s structural arsons and structural fires (2.7%), while having the highest ratio of structural fires caused by arson (23.7%). This ratio is substantially higher than the City-wide average of 14.7%.

The Bronx and Brooklyn also rank above the City average, at 17.8% and 15.8% respectively, although their ratios have decreased slightly from 1983. Manhattan and Queens still rank below the City average at 11.6% and 11.5%, although both their ratios increased slightly in 1984. Queens now has the lowest percentage of structural fires caused by arson in the City (11.5%).

<u>Borough</u>	<u>1984</u> <u># Structural</u> <u>Arsons</u>	<u>% of</u> <u>City Total</u>	<u>1984</u> <u># Structural</u> <u>Fires*</u>	<u>% of</u> <u>City Total</u>	<u>1984</u> <u>Arson per</u> <u>Fire Ratio</u>	<u>1983</u> <u>Arson per</u> <u>Fire Ratio</u>
Staten Island	220	4.3%	930	2.7%	.2365	.20260
Bronx	1,358	26.6%	7,637	22.0%	.1778	.19956
Brooklyn	1,839	36.1%	11,662	33.6%	.1576	.16726
Manhattan	1,087	21.4%	9,559	14.7%	.1161	.11042
Queens	<u>587</u>	<u>11.5%</u>	<u>5,085</u>	<u>14.7%</u>	.1154	.11043
Total	5,104**	100.0%	34,673	100.0%	.1472	.15214

\* Includes arson and accidental structural arson fires.

\*\* Includes 12 arsons for which borough not identified.

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Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.

Structural Fires By Quarter

The incidence of all structural fires in the City is generally correlated with seasonal conditions. As the heating season begins in the Fall, (fourth quarter) the number of fires rise, peaking in December and January, then gradually subside during the Spring and Summer months. There were significant deviations from this norm, however, during 1984, particularly in the Bronx, where a 60% increase in vacant building fires during the Spring and a 7% increase in occupied building fires during the Summer ran sharply counter to the trends in other boroughs.

	<u>BX</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>BK</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>MN</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>QN</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>S.I.</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Total (% Change)</u>
1st. Qtr. (% of Boro. Total)	1,786 (23.4%)	-	2,915 (25.0%)	-	2,511 (26.8%)	-	1,316 (25.9%)	-	218 (25.2%)	-	8,746 (-4.4%)*
2nd Qtr. (% of Boro Total)	1,856 (24.3%)	+3.9%	2,970 (25.5%)	+1.9%	2,255 (24.1%)	-10.2%	1,277 (25.1%)	-3.0%	263 (28.3%)	+20.6%	8,621 (-1.4%)
3rd Qtr. (% of Total)	2,004 (26.2%)	+8.0%	2,823 (24.2%)	-5.0%	2,115 (22.6%)	-6.2%	1,213 (23.9%)	-5.0%	220 (23.7%)	-16.4%	8,375 (-2.9%)
4th Qtr. (% of Boro Total)	1,991 (26.1%)	-.7%	2,954 (25.3%)	+4.6%	2,478 (26.5%)	+17.2%	1,279 (25.2%)	+5.4%	229 (24.6%)	+4.1%	8,931 (+6.6%)
Total (% of Total)	7,637 (22.0%)	-	11,662 (33.6%)	-	9,359 (27.0%)	-	5,085 (14.7%)	-	930 (2.7%)	-	34,673 (100.0%)

\*There were 9,127 structural fires during the last quarter of 1983.

Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.

Structural Arson By Month & Quarter, 1983 vs. 1984\*

In 1984 structural arson decreased in every borough except Staten Island during the Winter and Summer, compared to 1983 totals. Conversely, arson in buildings increased in every borough except Brooklyn during the Fall. The largest decrease of the year was registered in the Bronx during the Summer, when structural arson decreased 30.6% (334 cases in 1984 vs. 481 cases in 1983).

	<u>BROOKLYN</u>	<u>BRONX</u>	<u>MANHATTAN</u>	<u>QUEENS</u>	<u>S. I.</u>	<u>1984 TOTAL</u>	<u>% Change 1983-1984</u>
January	153	106	96	43	16	414	-16.7%
February	122	82	75	41	16	336	-16.6%
March	159	110	98	60	20	447	- 4.1%
-----							
1st Quarter	434	298	269	144	52	1,197	-12.4%
% Change(83-84)	-18.3%	-19.2%	- 1.8%	- 3.3%	+23.8%		
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April	141	112	96	50	21	420	-14.3%
May	191	127	106	70	20	514	+ 4.7%
June	144	116	80	50	16	406	-15.2%
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2nd Quarter	476	355	282	170	57	1,340	- 8.2%
% Change(83-84)	- 8.8%	-21.3%	+ 4.1%	+ 9.0%	- 8.1%		
-----							
July	155	119	87	46	19	426	- 8.2%
August	148	101	74	40	10	373	-21.6%
September	150	114	77	52	29	422	-18.0%
-----							
3rd Quarter	453	334	238	138	58	1,221	-16.1%
% Change(83-84)	-14.5%	-30.6%	- 4.0%	- 4.2%	+11.5%		
-----							
October	158	121	105	51	21	446	- 3.5%
November	169	126	110	49	16	470	+ 3.5%
December	155	135	89	58	23	460	+16.2%
-----							
4th Quarter	482	382	304	148	60	1,376	+ 4.9%
% Change(83-84)	- 3.0%	+10.1%	+ 4.1%	+ 5.7%	+22.4%		
-----							
Total	1,845	1,369	1,093	600	227	5,134*	- 8.0%
% Change(83-84)	-11.3%	-20.4%	+ .8%	+ 2.6%	+10.7%		

\*These figures include 42 incendiary fires in small structures (less than 1% of any total for any month in any borough) which would not be technically classified as arson under N.Y.S. Penal Law, unless the fire extended to a building or automobile. There were also 14 miscoded arsons not included in totals.

Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.

Buildings with Multiple Arson Fires by Borough

Nearly 25% of all structural arson occurred in buildings that experienced more than one arson during 1984. The Bronx and Manhattan had the greatest share of their arson accounted for by these multiple arson buildings. Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island all experienced an increase in the number of these problem buildings and the arsons occurring within them.

The 432 arson fires which occurred in the 171 buildings which experienced more than one arson fire in the Bronx accounted for 31.8% of all structural arson in that borough. Those 171 buildings accounted for 31.7% of all occupied building arsons and 32.0% of all vacant building arsons in the Bronx.

No. of Buildings Involved (Occupied/Vacant)

<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>Bronx</u>	<u>Brooklyn</u>	<u>Manhattan</u>	<u>Queens</u>	<u>S.I.</u>	<u>City Wide</u>
2	124 (64/60)	108 (79/29)	81 (64/17)	29 (26/3)	12 (6/6)	354 (239/115)
3	24 (15/9)	29 (22/7)	23 (20/3)	2 (2/0)	2 (0/2)	80 (59/21)
4	15 (10/5)	10 (9/1)	3 (3/0)	1 (1/0)	1 (1/0)	30 (24/6)
5	4 (3/1)	3 (3/0)	3 (3/0)	1 (1/0)	1 (1/0)	12 (11/1)
6	1 (1/0)	1 (1/0)	1 (1/0)	0	0	3 (3/0)
7	2 (0/2)	0	1 (1/0)	0	0	3 (1/2)
9	0	1 (1/0)	2 (2/0)	0	0	3 (3/0)
10	0	1 (0/1)	1 (1/0)	0	0	2 (1/1)
11	0	0	1 (0/1)	0	0	1 (0/1)
12	<u>1 (1/0)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1 (1/0)</u>
Total No. of Buildings	171 (94/77)	153 (115/38)	116 (95/21)	33 (30/3)	16 (8/8)	489 (342/147)
Total No. of Fires	432 (246/186)	383 (290/93)	310 (256/54)	73 (67/6)	39 (21/18)	1,237 (880/357)
No. of Fires as a % of all struct. arsons for boro.	31.8%*	20.8%*	28.5%*	12.4%*	17.7%*	24.2%*
(% Occ/%Vac)	(31.7/32.0)	(22.3/17.2)	(30.5/21.7)	(14.1/5.3)	(15.6/21.2)	(25.0/22.5)
All Str. Arson (% Occ/% Vac)	*n=1,358 (57.2/42.8)	*n=1,839 (70.4/29.6)	*n=1,088 (77.1/22.9)	*n=587 (80.7/19.3)	*n=220 (61.4/38.6)	*n=5,104 (69.0/31.0)

Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.

Combined Accidental and Arson  
Fire Insurance Claims by Borough\*

The Property Insurance Loss Register (PILR), created by the insurance industry in 1980, is a national computerized database of fire loss claims. These figures are based on reports filed with PILR by insurance adjusters. Thus, the estimated dollar loss should be viewed with extreme caution, since some insurance companies instruct their adjusters not to enter any estimations on the PILR report form, while those estimations that do appear are believed to be significantly lower than the actual dollar loss suffered.

<u>Borough</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Estimated Loss In Dollars</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Average Value of Claim per Fire</u>
Bronx	458	13.64%	\$ 4,802,937.00	15.71%	\$10,486.76
Queens	677	20.16%	\$ 6,993,531.00	22.88%	\$10,330.18
Brooklyn	1,220	36.33%	\$10,588,725.00	34.64%	\$ 8,679.28
Staten Is.	138	4.11%	\$ 1,137,928.00	3.72%	\$ 8,245.86
Manhattan	865	25.76%	\$ 7,044,673.00	23.05%	\$ 8,144.13
Total	3,358	100%	\$30,567,794.00	100%	\$ 9,102.98**

\*These are claims filed for property losses caused by all fires both accidental and incendiary. These totals reflect data for only three quarters of 1983.

\*\*This figure is an average sum for all claims.

Source: Property Insurance Loss Register.

Analysis indicates that approximately 10% of fire insurance claims filed with PILR in 1984 were associated with arson fires. Since there is a \$1,000 threshold for PILR, it is assumed that a great number of fires--both accidental and incendiary--are not filed with PILR because they cause little or no damage to a building or structure. In 1983, for example, 61% of all structural fires caused no damage to the affected building's structure, according to Battalion Chief reports examined for that year.

Furthermore, fires occurring in publicly owned buildings would not result in PILR filings (it is estimated that between 10% and 20% of all structural fires occur in such publicly owned buildings), nor would uninsured premises. However, despite such exclusions, there appear to be a significant number of fires for which insurance claims are filed but not reported to the Property Insurance Loss Register by adjusters. Pro-rating the above data for the entire year, only 13% of New York City's 34,000 structural fires resulted in fire insurance claims that were reported to PILR by adjusters.

Arson Per Vacant Building Ratio

Although only 15% of the City's vacant buildings are in the Bronx, that borough accounts for 37% of the City's vacant building arson problem. Nearly 23 out of every 100 vacant buildings located in the Bronx suffered arson fires in 1984. This is more than twice the City-wide rate (9.2).

The number of vacant buildings throughout the City declined 4% in 1984, while the number of arsons occurring in these abandoned structures declined at a more substantial rate of 16%. The Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan have all experienced declines in the ratio of arsons to vacant buildings since 1983, while Queens and Staten Island (which have a combined 13% share of the arson and 16% share of the buildings) experienced slight increases.

	<u># of Arsons in Vacant Buildings</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u># of Vacant Buildings</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Arson per 100 Vacant Buildings</u>
Bronx	581	36.7%	2,563	14.9%	22.6
Staten Is.	85	5.4%	710	4.1%	12.0
Manhattan	249	15.7%	3,413	19.9%	7.3
Brooklyn	544	34.3%	8,401	49.0%	6.4
Queens	113	7.1%	2,064	12.0%	5.5
City-Wide	1,584*	100%	17,151	100%	9.2

\*Includes 12 vacant building arsons for which borough was not indicated.

Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department; N.Y.C. Dept. of City Planning (Sanborn Vacant Building File).

Vacant Buildings and H.P.D. Treatment by Borough

Approximately 16% of all the vacant buildings in the City suffered fires (accidental and incendiary combined) in 1984 (2,798 fires in 17,151 buildings), a significant decline from 1983's fire to vacant building ratio of 20% (3,504 fires in 17,824 buildings). In 1984, the Department of Housing Preservation and Development masonry sealed or demolished 18% of all vacant buildings in the five boroughs, an increase of 4% over 1983's total. Only a cross-tabulation of fire addresses by HPD-treated addresses could confirm whether this observed correlation between fire and vacant building ratios is causal or coincidental.

<u>Borough</u>	<u>Vacant Bldg. Fires</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Vacant Buildings</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Bldgs. Demolished &amp; Masonry Sealed</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Brooklyn	1,028	36.7%	8,401	49.0%	1,426	46.1%
Manhattan	555	19.8%	3,413	19.9%	552	17.9%
Bronx	941	33.6%	2,563	14.9%	847	27.4%
Queens	161	5.7%	2,064	12.0%	214	6.9%
Staten Island	131	4.0%	710	4.1%	50	1.6%
1984 City-wide	2,798	100%	17,151	100%	3,093*	100%
1983 City-wide	3,504		17,824		2,973	
<u>% Change</u>						
1983-1984						
			-4.2%		+4.0%	

\*Includes four buildings for which the borough was not identified.

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Source: NYC Department of City Planning (Sanborn Vacant Building File); and NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (Division of Demolition).

The distribution of HPD's seal up and demolition activities by borough is roughly analagous to the distribution of vacant buildings in two boroughs: Brooklyn (which has 46% of treated buildings vs. 49% of all vacant buildings in the City), and Manhattan (18% vs. 20%). The Bronx, with only 15% of the City's vacant buildings, was the beneficiary of 27% of the Division of Demolition's treatment.

Fire and Arson Rates in Vacant Buildings by Borough

From a fire prevention standpoint, the extra allocation of HPD resources to the Bronx is justified by the fact that 37% of its vacant buildings suffered fires in 1984 -- a ratio three times greater than Brooklyn's and twice that of Manhattan.

<u>Borough</u>	<u>Vacant Bldg.</u> <u>Arsons</u>	<u>% of</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>Vacant Bldg.</u> <u>Fires</u>	<u>% of</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>Ratio of</u> <u>Arsons to Vac.</u> <u>Building Fires</u>	<u>Ratio of</u> <u>Fires to</u> <u>Vacant Bldgs.</u>
Brooklyn	544	34.3%	1,028	36.7%	.529	.122
Manhattan	249	15.7%	555	19.8%	.449	.163
Bronx	581	36.7%	941	33.6%	.617	.367
Queens	113	7.1%	161	5.7%	.702	.078
Staten Island	85	5.4%	113	4.0%	.752	.159
1984 City-wide	1,584*	100%	2,798	100%	.566	.163
1983 City-wide	1,871		3,504		.534	.197
% Change 1983-1984	<u>-15.5%</u>		<u>-20.1%</u>		<u>+6.0%</u>	<u>-17.3%</u>

\*Includes 12 arsons for which borough was not identified.

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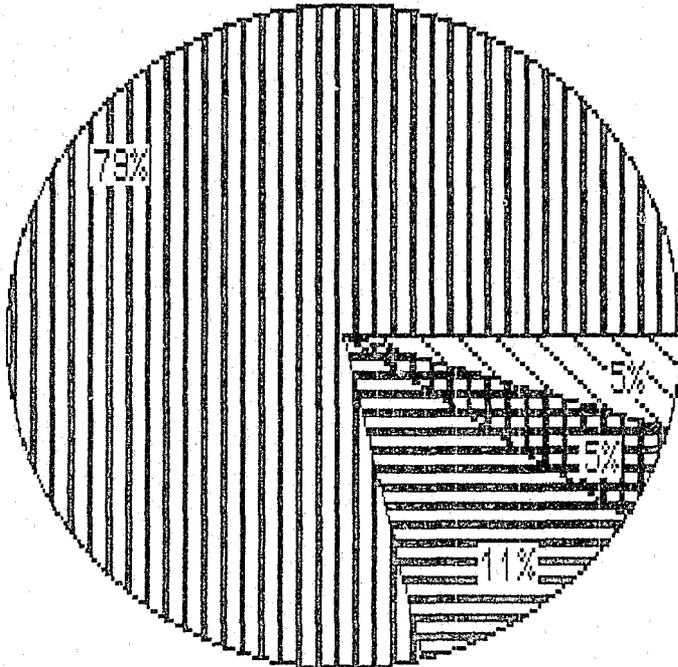
Source: NYC Department of City Planning (Sanborn Vacant Building File);  
and NYC Fire Department.

Finally, Queens and Staten Island, which account for a combined total of 10% of the City's vacant building fires and 13% of its vacant building arsons, have the highest rates of vacant building fires attributable to arson: 72% of all fires occurring in vacant buildings there were attributable to arson in 1984. Since both of these boroughs have traditionally higher rates of fires in commercial buildings than the other boroughs, it is possible that the higher arson rates are attributable to better reporting of these fires to the Bureau of Fire Investigation by Battalion Chiefs.

BRONX STRUCTURAL ARSONS

Bronx

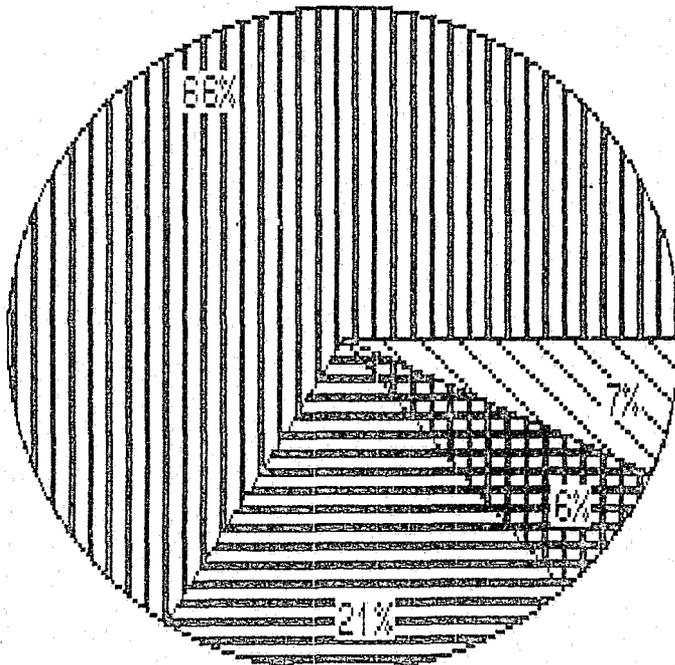
-  Multiple Dwellings
-  Commercial-Industrial
-  One&Two Family House
-  Public Buildings



BROOKLYN STRUCTURAL ARSONS

Brooklyn

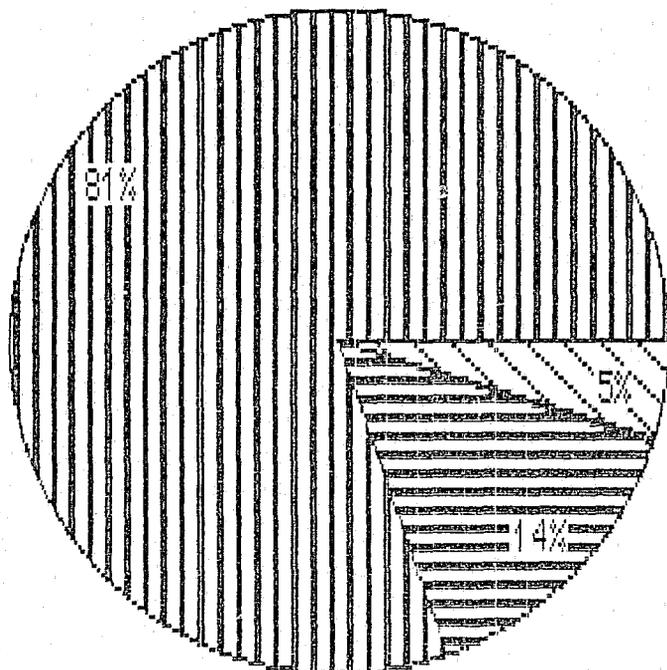
-  Multiple Dwellings
-  Commercial-Industrial
-  One&Two Family House
-  Public Buildings



MANHATTAN STRUCTURAL ARSONS

Manhattan

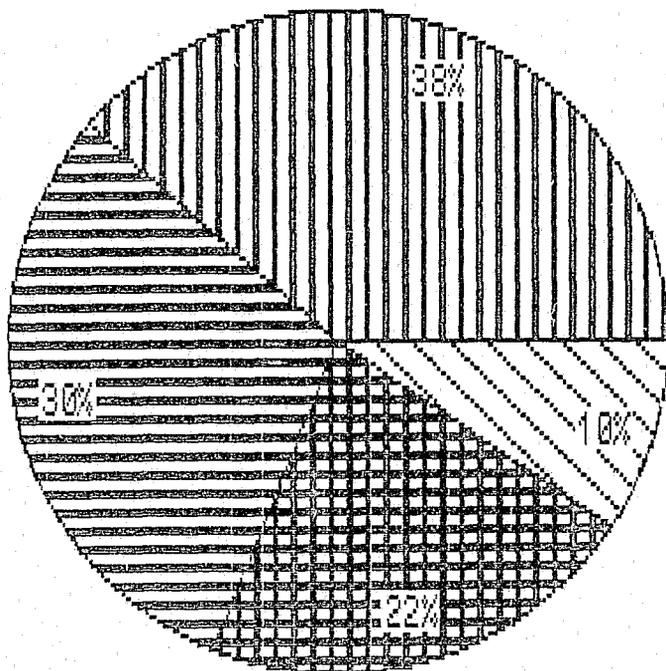
-  Multiple Dwellings
-  Commercial-Industrial
-  One&Two Family House
-  Public Buildings



QUEENS STRUCTURAL ARSONS

Queens

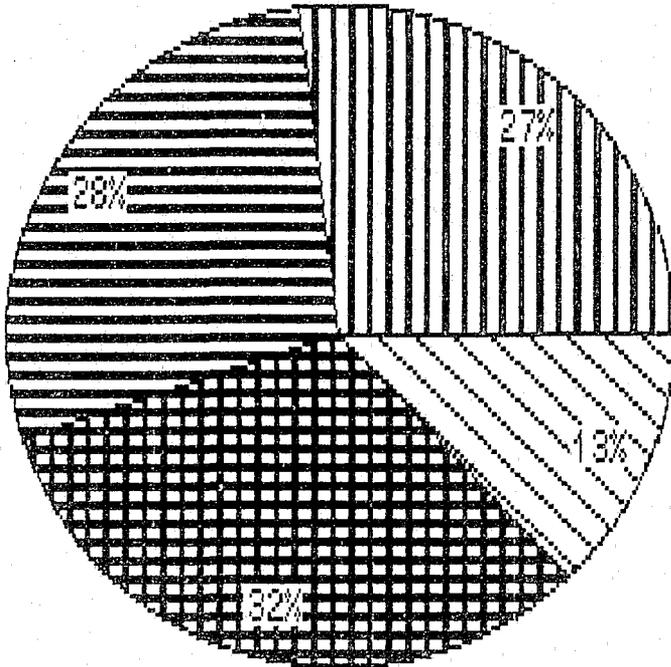
-  Multiple Dwellings
-  Commercial-Industrial
-  One&Two Family House
-  Public Buildings



## STATEN ISLAND STRUCTURAL ARSON

### Staten Island

-  Multiple Dwellings
-  Commercial-Industrial
-  One&Two Family House
-  Public Buildings



The pie charts indicate the distribution of arson in types of buildings in each borough. The percentages of distribution within each borough, and the City as a whole remained relatively unchanged from 1983's distribution.

In interpreting these figures it is instructive to examine the percentage of building types for all structures. Seventy percent of occupied tax lots in the City are one and two family houses, yet only eight percent of the arson occurs in these structures. Approximately nineteen percent of the tax lots in the City are multiple dwelling structures, but more than two thirds of arson occurs in these buildings.

On a borough wide basis the most arson of commercial buildings occurred in Queens, where thirty percent of intentionally set fires occurred in commercial-industrial properties (6% of the tax lots in Queens are commercial-industrial, and 8% of the City's tax lots are commercial-industrial).

**NY City Sues Convicted Arsonists**

I. Koch said the amount of damages being sought was based on the cost of demolishing the burned-out buildings, the housing stock, injuries to firefighters and the damage to the city.

make a point here: that we intend to make a crime by making criminals pay for the damage to the city and its citizens,"

**Arson probbers check destruction of 2 buses**

By CHARLES SEATON

Fire marshals yesterday were investigating the cause of an arson at the Brooklyn that de-

**'They get bored and set fires for the heck of it.'**

NEW YORK — The city filed a \$13 million federal suit against members of an arson ring that torched 17 apartment buildings in Harlem and the South Bronx in the late 1970s.

the late 1970s. The suit, filed in federal court in Manhattan, contains allegations that led to criminal convictions for the ring leader, and eight other people. The suit also named apartment buildings.

grounded in 1984 because of flaws and that forced them unsafe New York

Fire blaze w... ter 10... bus...

THE exact cause was un- known. The exact cause was un- known. The exact cause was un- known.

**IT WAS ARSON! FIRE MARSHALS SAY**

Fifteen... smoke expo... at the Liberty Heat... 15 Atlantic Ave., aut... About 100 fire fighters who more than three hours to blaze were hampered in because water could not... tanks holding the cy... risk of igniting the... spreading a cloud of dea... the neighborhood.

... said that just after... toward the back of... as on fire. The "five to... "all got out in very good... said.

The Koch administration sued nine jailed members of an arson ring yesterday — including the 82-year-old mastermind — for \$13 million in damages caused by fires in 17 buildings in Harlem and the South Bronx.

**Fight Against Arson Hits The Street**

By JIM MCKENNA

ation is non-stop as the di- onnet rattles down the street. J... rives, his laughter bursting fo... o the maxims of Tom Clarke... s on Burns' headrest: A fire... rupts Clarke's story... 5, the dispatcher signals, in... e engines, two ladder compan... chief that there is an active fire burn... re an alarm has been turned in... rns to Burns and says, "Let's take it

mind. Probably my... is the job of... and... previously undetected arson fires.

**Sues Arson Ring \$13M in Damages**

The Koch administration sued nine jailed members of an arson ring yesterday — including the 82-year-old mastermind — for \$13 million in damages caused by fires in 17 buildings in Harlem and the South Bronx.

**73 Hurt as Arson Shuts Terminal, Disrupts Service; Traffic Snarled**

... said that the cyanide, a solution including sodium cyanide and potassium cyanide, is used for "putting cases on low-carbon steels."

1984 ARSON FATALITIES

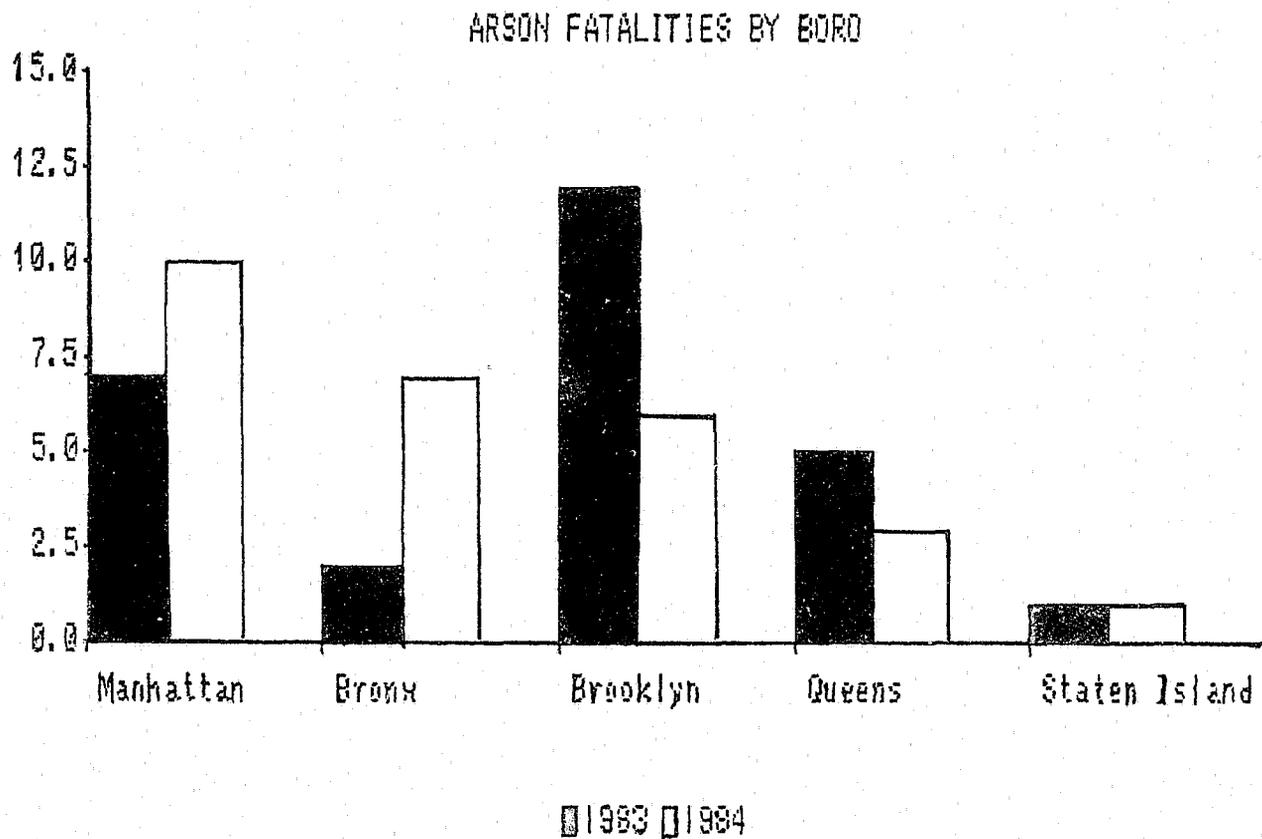


Arson Fatalities By Borough & Citywide

The number of arson fatalities remained constant at 27 victims during 1984. Manhattan accounted for the largest number of fatalities (10). Brooklyn experienced a sharp drop in arson deaths, while the Bronx increased.

Borough	1983		1984	
	Fatalities	% of Total	Fatalities	% of Total
Manhattan	7	25.9%	10	37.0%
Bronx	2	7.4%	7	25.9%
Brooklyn	12	44.4%	6	22.2%
Queens	5	18.5%	3	11.1%
Staten Island	1	3.7%	1	3.7%
Citywide	27	100.0%	27	100.0%

Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.



Arson Fatalities  
By Sex and Age

In both 1983 and 1984, there were slightly more male than female arson fatalities. The average age for arson victims was substantially older in 1984: 46 years, versus 34 years in 1983.

<u>Age</u>	<u>1983</u>			<u>1984</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 13	3	4	7	0	1	1
13-19	2	1	3	0	1	1
20-29	1	2	3	3	2	5
30-49	5	1	6	4	4	8
50-plus	3	5	8	5	4	9
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	14	13	27	15	12	27

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Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.



Arson Fatalities By Month\*

In 1983 nearly two-thirds of arson fatalities occurred during the Winter. In 1984, fatal arson incidents were most frequent in the Spring and Summer.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Fatal Arson Fires</u>		<u>Arson Fatalities</u>	
	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
January	3	1	4	1
February	4	2	6	2
March	3	1	3	2
April	1	4	1	5
May	0	1	0	1
June	0	3	0	4
July	1	2	1	2
August	1	2	2	4
September	1	2	1	2
October	0	1	0	2
November	1	2	1	2
December	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	18	21	27**	27

\* Tabulated by date of fire.

\*\*There were a total of 29 arson fatalities in 1983. Two fatalities which resulted from fires that occurred prior to 1983 are not included.

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Source: NYC Fire Department.

Arson Fatalities by Time of Day

There were six arsons resulting in seven deaths between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:59 a.m. during 1984. This represents a significant shift from 1983, when there were no fatal incidents recorded during this four hour period of traditionally low fire and crime activity. The most fatal fires, as with all arson fires, continue to occur between 8:00 p.m. and 3:59 a.m. (nine fires with ten fatalities in 1984, and 12 fires with 21 fatalities in 1983).

<u>Hour</u>	<u>Incidents</u>		<u>Fatalities</u>	
	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
Midnight to 12:59 a.m.	2	1	3	1
1:00 a.m. to 1:59 a.m.	3	1	4	2
2:00 a.m. to 2:59 a.m.	3	2	4	2
3:00 a.m. to 3:59 a.m.	2	1	2	1
4:00 a.m. to 4:59 a.m.	0	1	0	1
5:00 a.m. to 5:59 a.m.	0	0	0	0
6:00 a.m. to 6:59 a.m.	0	2	0	2
7:00 a.m. to 7:59 a.m.	0	0	0	0
8:00 a.m. to 8:59 a.m.	0	1	0	2
9:00 a.m. to 9:59 a.m.	0	1	0	1
10:00 a.m. to 10:59 a.m.	0	2	0	2
11:00 a.m. to 11:59 a.m.	2	0	2	0
Noon to 12:59 p.m.	1	0	1	0
1:00 p.m. to 1:59 p.m.	1	1	1	3
2:00 p.m. to 2:59 p.m.	0	0	0	0
3:00 p.m. to 3:59 p.m.	1	0	1	0
4:00 p.m. to 4:59 p.m.	1	1	1	2
5:00 p.m. to 5:59 p.m.	0	1	0	1
6:00 p.m. to 6:69 p.m.	0	0	0	0
7:00 p.m. to 7:59 p.m.	0	2	0	3
8:00 p.m. to 8:59 p.m.	1	1	6	1
9:00 p.m. to 9:59 p.m.	0	1	0	1
10:00 p.m. to 10:59 p.m.	0	1	0	1
11:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	18	21	27	27

Source: NYC Fire Department.

Arson Fatalities by Origin of Fires

During 1984 there was a substantial increase in the number of fatal arson fires that began in bedrooms. There were fewer fatalities resulting from arson fires that originated in public hallways during 1984, primarily because one such arson claimed six victims in 1983. Multiple dwellings continue to predominate as the most frequent location for fatal arson fires.

<u>Fire Origin</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
	<u>Incidents</u>		<u>Fatalities</u>	
Bedroom	2	6	2	7
Living Room	3	1	3	1
Porch	1	1	1	1
Public Hallway	6	7	14	8
Sales Showroom	2	4	2	8
Stairway	1	0	1	0
Storage Room	1	2	1	2
Work Area	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>18</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>27</u>

Arson Fatalities by Type of Building

	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
	<u>Incidents</u>		<u>Fatalities</u>	
Multiple Dwelling	12	11	20	15
Private House	3	5	3	5
Store	2	3	2	5
Loft Building	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	<u>18</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>27</u>

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Source: NYC Fire Department.

Arson Fatalities vs. Accidental Fire Fatalities by Age

Arson caused 13.1% of all 1984 fire-related fatalities, which represents an increase over 1983's rate of 11.8%. Teenagers comprised the lowest proportion of both arson and accidental fire victims in both 1983 and 1984.

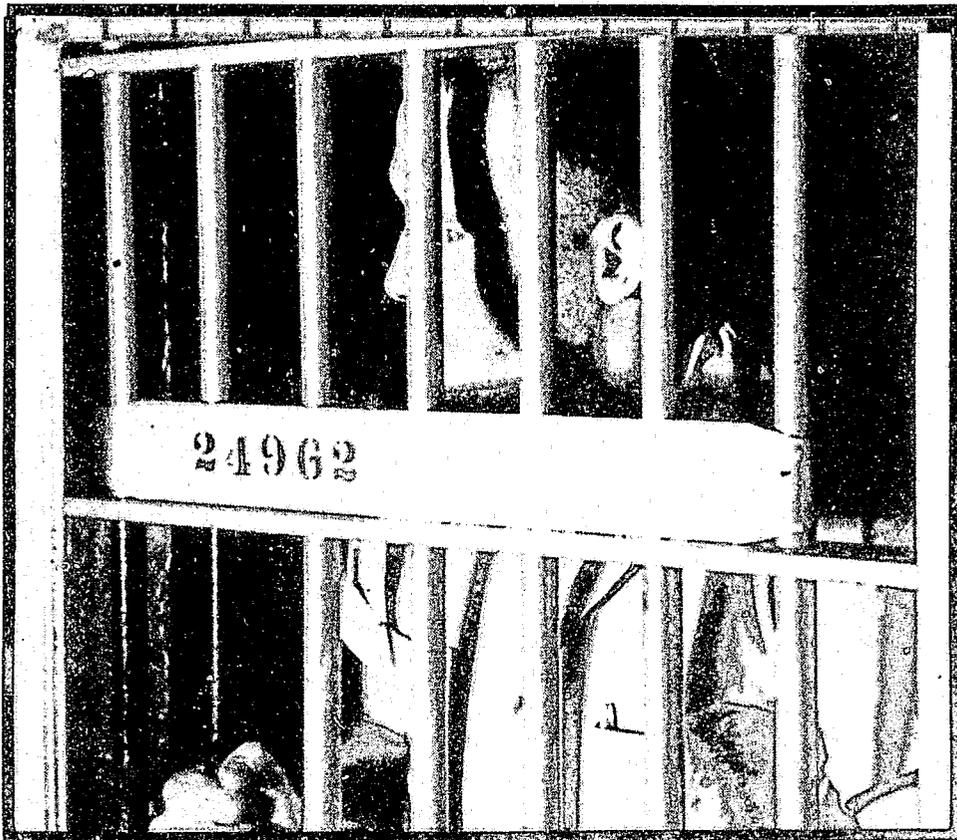
<u>Age</u>	<u>Arson Fatalities</u>		<u>Accidental Fire Fatalities</u>		<u>All Fire-Related Fatalities</u>	
	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
Under 13	7	1	44	41	51	42
13-19	3	1	8	0	11	1
20-29	3	5	16	19	19	24
30-49	6	8	36	35	42	43
50-plus	8	9	92	79	100	88
Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>
Total (%)*	27 (11.8%)	27 (13.1%)	201 (88.2%)	179 (86.9%)	228 (100%)	206 (100%)

\*Indicates percentage of all fire fatalities.

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Source: NYC Fire Department.

1984 ARSON ARRESTS



ARSON DEFINITIONS  
UNDER ARTICLE 150 OF THE  
NEW YORK STATE PENAL LAW

Arson in the First Degree (Class A-1 Felony)\*. Section 150.20.

1. A person is guilty of arson in the first degree when he intentionally damages a building or motor vehicle by causing an explosion or a fire and when (a) such explosion or fire is caused by an incendiary device propelled, thrown or placed inside such building or motor vehicle; or when such explosion or fire is caused by an explosive; and when (b) another person who is not a participant in the crime is present in such building or motor vehicle at the time; and (c) the defendant knows that fact or the circumstances are such as to render the presence of such person therein a reasonable possibility.

2. As used in this section, "incendiary device" means a breakable container designed to explode or produce uncontained combustion upon impact, containing flammable liquid and having a wick or a similar device capable of being ignited.

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Arson in the Second Degree (Class B Felony). Section 150.15.

A person is guilty of arson in the second degree when he intentionally damages a building or motor vehicle by starting a fire, and when (a) another person who is not a participant in the crime is present in such building or motor vehicle at the time, and (b) the defendant knows that fact or the circumstances are such as to render the presence of such a person therein a reasonable possibility.

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Arson in the Third Degree (Class C Felony). Section 150.10.

A person is guilty of arson in the third degree when he intentionally damages a building or motor vehicle by starting a fire or causing an explosion.

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Arson in the Fourth Degree (Class E Felony). Section 150.05.

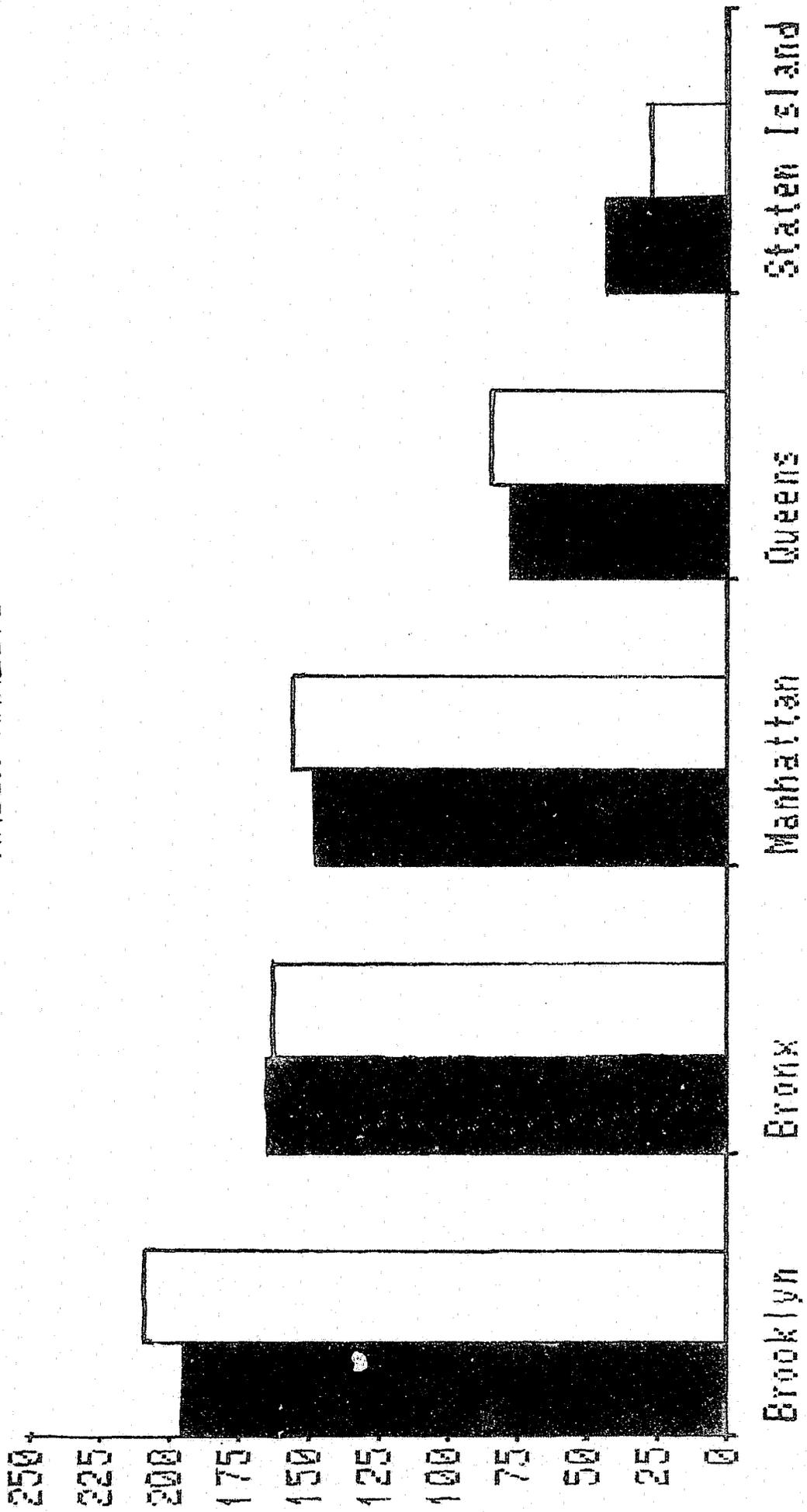
A person is guilty of arson in the fourth degree when he recklessly damages a building or motor vehicle by intentionally starting a fire or causing an explosion.

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\*Subdivision 1 of Arson in the First Degree statute revised, effective 11/1/84, as follows (new matter is underscored):

1. A person is guilty of arson in the first degree when he intentionally damages a building or motor vehicle by causing an explosion or a fire and when (a) such explosion or fire is caused by an incendiary device propelled, thrown or placed inside or near such building or motor vehicle; or when such explosion or fire is caused by an explosive; or when such explosion or fire either (i) causes serious physical injury to another person other than a participant, or (ii) the explosion or fire was caused with the expectation or receipt of financial advantage or pecuniary profit by the actor; and when (b) another person who is not a participant in the crime is present in such building or motor vehicle at the time; and (c) the defendant knows that fact or the circumstances are such as to render the presence of such person therein a reasonable possibility.

# ARSON ARRESTS



1983  1984

Arson Arrests by Borough & City-Wide\*

Brooklyn continues to lead the boroughs in arson arrests (33%). While the five-borough arrest rate has increased slightly from 1983, there was a sharp increase (+44.%) in arson arrests in the Bronx, and a sharp decline (-38.6%) in Staten Island. The rank order of arrests remains equivalent to the rank order of arson complaints by borough.

<u>Borough</u>	1983		1984		<u>% Change</u>
	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	
Brooklyn	195	30.6%	209	32.6%	+ 7.9%
Bronx	165	26.2%	164	25.6%	- 0.6%
Manhattan	148	23.5%	156	24.3%	+5.4%
Queens	78	12.4%	85	13.3%	+9.0%
Staten Island	44	7.0%	27	4.2%	-38.6%
Total	630	100.0%	641	100.0%	+1.8%

\* Note: The Police Department uses a hierarchal system of sorting arrests, in which cases involving multiple offenses are classified under the most serious charge according to the NYS Penal Law. This reporting method is in accordance with guidelines the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Committee and the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services established for the classifying of offenses. (Thus, NYPD reported 367 arrests during 1984 for which arson was the most serious charge, a 5% increase over 1983's total of 349.) However, our arrest data, obtained through the cooperation of the Police Department's Crime Analysis Section, On Line Booking System, includes all cases in which arson was at least one of the top five offenses charged.

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Source: N.Y.C. Police Department, Crime Analysis Section, On Line Booking System.

### Arson Arrests By Race

The racial composition of those arrested for arson showed little fluctuation in 1984.

	<u>1983</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Black	262	41.59%	291	45.40%
Hispanic	225	37.71%	204	31.83%
White	136	21.59%	135	21.06%
Other	7	1.11%	11	1.72%
Total	630	100.00%	641	100.00%

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### Arson Arrests by Birthplace

U.S. born arson arrestees continue to comprise more than eighty percent of all those arrested for arson, with native New Yorkers accounting for the majority in this category.

<u>Birthplace</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
New York	352	55.87%	365	56.94%
Other USA	205	32.54%	203	31.67%
Dominican Rep.	13	2.06%	18	2.81%
Cuba	7	1.11%	4	.62%
Haiti	6	.95%	4	.62%
Jamaica	6	.95%	9	1.40%
Guiana	5	.79%	2	.31%
Italy	5	.79%	6	.94%
Other	26	4.13%	30	4.39%
Total	630	100.00%	641	100.00%

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Source: N.Y.C. Police Department, Crime Analysis Section,  
On Line Booking System.

Arson Arrests by Marital Status and Occupation

Those arrested for arson in New York City are predominately single and unemployed.

Marital Status

<u>Status</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Single	451	71.59%	436	68.02%
Living Together	21	3.33%	34	5.30%
Married	105	16.67%	120	18.72%
Separated	22	3.49%	19	2.96%
Divorced	20	3.17%	20	3.12%
Widowed	8	1.27%	3	.47%
Unknown	3	.48%	9	1.40%
Total	630	100.00%	641	100.00%

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Occupational Status

<u>Status</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Unemployed	318	50.48%	345	53.82%
Construction	17	2.70%	22	3.43%
Clerical	9	1.43%	11	1.72%
City Employee	4	.63%	2	.31%
Other Occupation	244	38.73%	229	35.73%
Unknown	38	6.03%	32	4.99%
Total	630	100.00%	641	100.00%

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Source: NYC Police Department, Crime Analysis Section,  
On Line Booking System.

Arson Arrests By Age

The 25 to 29 age group continues to account for the largest number of arson arrests in 1984. There was a decrease in arson arrests of defendants age 20 and under, while arson arrests of those age 40 and over increased 25%.

<u>Age</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>% Change</u>
12 & Under	25	3.97	22	3.44	
13 & 14	29	4.60	27	4.22	
15	26	4.13	16	2.50	
<u>Subtotal (15 &amp; Under)</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>12.70%</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>10.16%</u>	<u>-18.75%</u>
16	40	6.53	19	2.96	
17	28	4.44	35	5.46	
<u>Subtotal (17 &amp; Under)</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>23.49%</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>18.58%</u>	<u>-19.59%</u>
18	24	3.81	19	2.96	
19	25	3.97	18	2.81	
20	17	2.70	26	4.06	
<u>Subtotal (20 &amp; Under)</u>	<u>214</u>	<u>33.97%</u>	<u>182</u>	<u>28.41%</u>	<u>-14.95%</u>
21 to 24	80	12.70	101	15.75	
25 to 29	110	17.46	119	18.56	
<u>Subtotal (29 &amp; Under)</u>	<u>404</u>	<u>64.13%</u>	<u>402</u>	<u>62.72%</u>	<u>- 0.50%</u>
30 to 34	86	13.65	77	12.01	
35 to 39	56	8.89	57	8.89	
<u>Subtotal (39 &amp; Under)</u>	<u>546</u>	<u>86.67%</u>	<u>536</u>	<u>83.62%</u>	<u>- 1.83%</u>
40 to 44	36	5.71	44	6.86	
45 to 49	20	3.17	28	4.37	
50 to 54	13	2.06	15	2.34	
55 to 59	4	0.63	10	1.56	
60 to 64	5	0.79	3	0.47	
65 & Over	6	0.95	5	0.78	
<u>Total</u>	<u>630</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>641</u>	<u>100%.00</u>	<u>+ 1.75%</u>

Source: N.Y.C. Police Department, Crime Analysis Section, On Line Booking System.

Arson Arrests By Sex and Age

Males in the 21 to 29 age bracket accounted for 28% of all arson arrests in 1984, which represents the highest percentage of arrests for any age group for either sex. There was a three-fold increase in the number of arrested females, age 21 to 24, from 1983 to 1984. Despite a 21% increase in the total number of females arrested for arson last year, males continue to account for 85% of all arson arrests in New York City (compared to 87% in 1983).

	M A L E			F E M A L E		
	1983	1984	% Change	1983	1984	% Change
12 & Under	24	16		1	6	
13 & 14	27	25		2	2	
15	24	16		2	0	
Subtotal (15 & Under)	75	57	(-24.00%)	5	8	(+60.00%)
16	37	19		3	0	
17	23	31		5	4	
Subtotal (17 & Under)	135	107	(-20.74%)	13	12	(- 7.69%)
18	22	17		2	2	
19	20	16		5	2	
20	14	17		3	9	
Subtotal (20 & Under)	191	157	(-17.80%)	23	25	(+ 8.70%)
21 to 24	73	79		7	22	
25 to 29	90	101		20	18	
Subtotal (29 & Under)	354	337	(- 4.80%)	50	65	(+30.00%)
30 to 34	73	65		13	12	
35 to 39	51	51		5	6	
Subtotal (39 & Under)	478	453	(- 5.23%)	68	83	(+22.06%)
40 to 44	30	40		6	4	
45 to 49	16	23		2	5	
50 to 54	11	12		4	3	
55 to 59	4	7		0	3	
60 to 64	5	3		0	0	
65 & Over	4	4		0	1	
Total	548	542	(- 1.09%)	82	99	(+20.73%)

Source: N.Y.C. Police Department, Crime Analysis Section,  
On Line Booking System.

Arson Charge By Age

Individuals between the ages of 25 and 34, charged with Arson Second Degree, continue to comprise the greatest percentage of all arson arrests. A majority of individuals age 20 and younger are charged with Arson Third and Fourth Degree (98 out of 182 arson arrestees in that age group, or 54%).

	<u>Under 16</u>		<u>16-20</u>		<u>21-24</u>		<u>25-34</u>		<u>35-44</u>		<u>45-54</u>		<u>55 &amp; over</u>		<u>Totals*</u>		<u>% Change</u>
	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	
Arson 1	3	3	18	9	4	4	8	21	2	8	1	2	0	1	36	48	(+33%)
Attempted Arson 1	3	0	1	2	2	3	5	11	3	2	1	0	0	0	15	18	(+20%)
Arson 2	31	21	58	39	37	38	99	88	44	48	22	18	10	9	301	271	(-10%)
Attempted Arson 2	9	3	7	12	2	12	22	21	12	19	5	4	2	4	59	75	(+27%)
Arson 3	14	30	33	36	17	25	43	38	21	15	4	10	1	1	135	155	(+17%)
Attempted Arson 3	0	3	8	6	6	3	6	5	1	3	0	4	1	1	22	25	(+14%)
Arson 4	14	6	8	14	8	6	12	12	7	7	1	5	1	2	51	52	(+ 2%)
Attempted Arson 4	6	0	2	3	6	0	5	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	21	7	(-67%)
Totals	80	66	135	121	82	105	200	198	92	104	34	43	15	18	638	651	(+ 2%)
% of Total	13%	10%	21%	19%	13%	16%	31%	16%	14%	16%	5%	7%	2%	3%	100%	100%	
% Change 1983-1984		<u>-10%</u>		<u>-10%</u>		<u>+23%</u>		<u>-1%</u>		<u>+13%</u>		<u>+26%</u>		<u>+20%</u>		<u>+2%</u>	

\*Note: Since some individuals were booked for multiple arson charges, these figures are not equivalent to the number of arrests.

Source: N.Y.C. Police Department, Crime Analysis Section, On Line Booking System.

Arson Charge by Premises Classification

The overwhelming majority of arrests for arson continued to be associated with arson in residential property in 1984 (62.26%). Arrests for arson of occupied (Arson 1 and 2) and unoccupied (Arson 3) motor vehicles nearly doubled (93 cases in 1984, compared to 47 in 1983). Overall, "attempts" continued to account for only 19% of arson charges.

	<u>Residential</u>			<u>Commercial</u>		<u>Mobile</u>		<u>Public</u>		<u>Totals</u>			
	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1984 % of total</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1984 % of Total</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Arson 1	19	26	4.19%	7	3	1	13	8	1	35	43	6.94%	+22.86%
Attempted Arson 1	6	5	0.81%	7	8	0	4	2	0	15	17	2.74%	+13.33%
Arson 2	226	224	36.13%	26	20	1	5	22	15	275	264	42.58%	- 4.00%
Attempted Arson 2	50	52	8.39%	4	14	0	0	5	4	59	70	11.29%	+18.64%
Arson 3	36	33	5.32%	18	27	47	75	12	12	113	147	23.71%	+30.09%
Attempted Arson 3	4	12	1.94%	5	3	8	8	2	0	19	23	3.71%	+21.05%
Arson 4	14	32	5.16%	10	3	5	6	14	7	43	48	7.74%	+11.63%
Attempted Arson 4	9	2	0.32%	0	3	8	1	2	2	19	8	1.29%	-57.89%
TOTAL	364	386	12.26%	77	81	70	112	67	41	578*	620**	100.00%	+ 7.27%

\* There were 60 arrests for which the premises classification was not indicated. (There were a total of 638 arson charges.)

\*\* There were 18 arrests for which the premises classification was not indicated. (There were a total of 638 arson charges.)

Source: N.Y.C. Police Department, Crime Analysis Section, On Line Booking System.

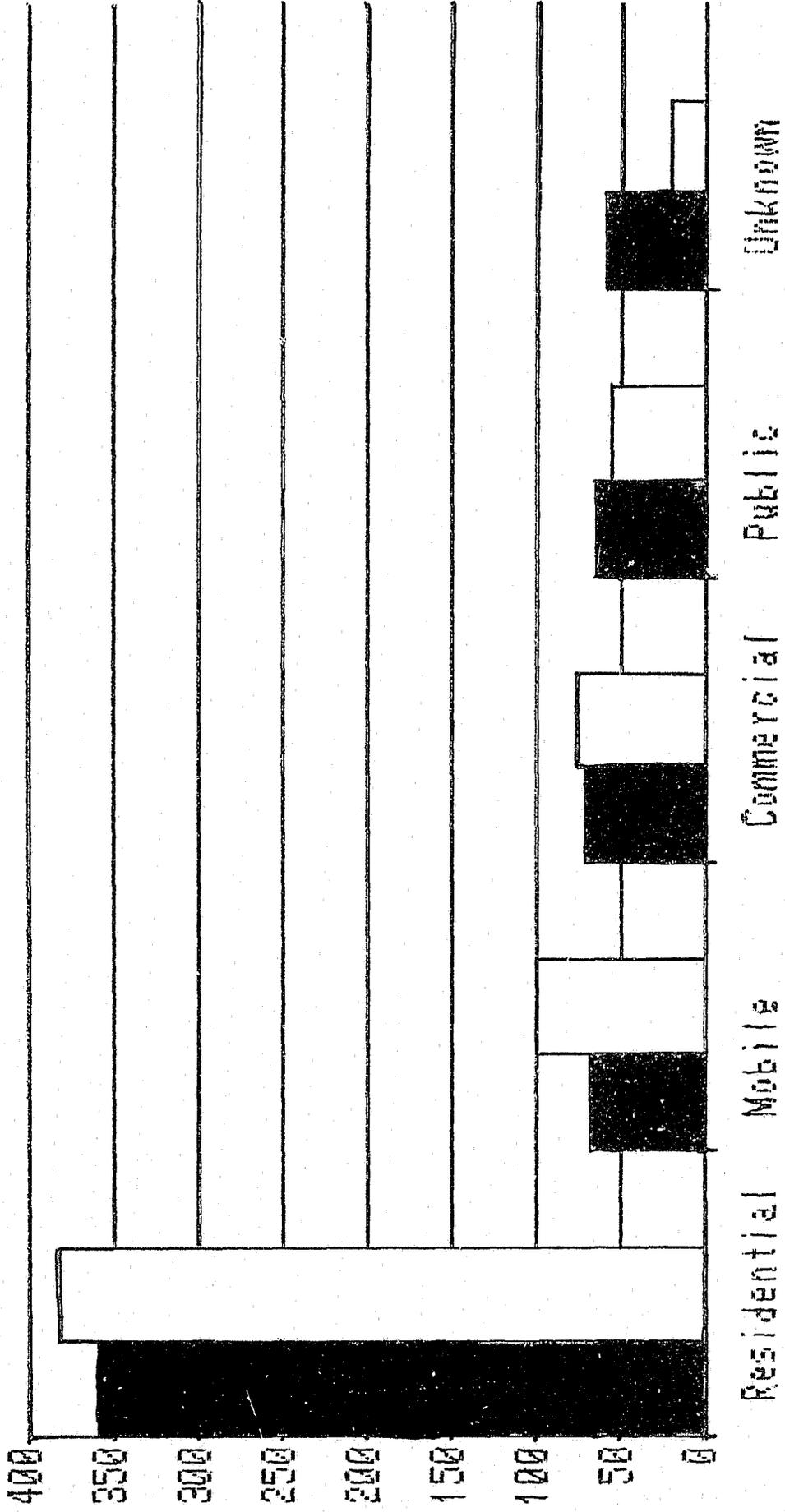
Premises Classification by Age of Arson Arrestee

Arrests for arson of residential property continues to be predominant. The most significant increase in arrests was for individuals charged with arson of vehicular properties. Arrests for this type of arson increased forty-four percent overall in 1984. More than half of this increase was concentrated in the 25-34 age group.

AGE	<u>Premises Type</u>											
	<u>Residential</u>		<u>Commercial</u>		<u>Mobile</u>		<u>Public</u>		<u>Unknown</u>		<u>Totals</u>	
	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
Under 16	37	29	2	7	4	10	26	14	11	5	80	65
16-20	59	49	17	22	23	17	18	22	17	7	134	117
21-24	44	62	9	13	11	18	8	4	8	4	80	101
25-34	116	126	30	24	22	38	10	8	18	0	196	196
35-44	68	71	8	9	8	13	3	5	5	3	92	101
45-54	26	31	4	3	1	5	1	2	1	2	33	43
55 & Over	10	16	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	15	18
Totals	360	384	73	78	70	101	67	56	60	22	630	641
% of Total	63%	62%	13%	13%	12%	16%	12%	9%	10%	3%	100%	100%
(% Change)		(+6.97%)		(+6.85%)		(+44.21%)		(-16.42%)		(-63.33%)		(+ 1.75%)

Source: N.Y.C. Police Department, Crime Analysis Section, On Line Booking System.

# ARSON ARREST BY PREMISES TYPE



■ 1983 □ 1984

Arson Charge By Number of Associates

Of those arrested for arson in 1984, 80% were arrested alone and the other 20% were arrested with associates. Those charged with Arson Second Degree were least likely to have co-defendants: 89% in that category were arrested without associates in 1984. The charges most frequently connected with fire-setting in vacant buildings and motor vehicles--Arson Third or Fourth Degree--were strongly correlated with multiple defendants: 31% (74 out of 239) arrested on these charges had co-defendants in 1984, a ratio little changed from 1983's figure of 32%.

CHARGE	N O N E		O N E		T W O		T H R E E O R M O R E		T O T A L S*		% CHANGE
	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	
Arson 1	22	37	9	5	1	0	4	6	36	48	+33.33%
Attempted Arson 1	11	11	2	6	0	1	2	0	15	18	+20.00%
Arson 2	251	240	25	18	16	4	9	9	301	271	- 9.97%
Attempted Arson 2	51	69	4	6	3	0	1	0	59	75	+27.12%
Arson 3	92	101	25	35	10	14	6	5	133	155	+16.54%
Attempted Arson 3	18	21	2	4	0	0	2	0	22	25	+13.64%
Arson 4	33	35	7	11	0	6	11	0	51	52	+ 1.96%
Attempted Arson 4	11	5	7	2	3	0	0	0	21	7	-66.67%
Total	489	519	81	87	33	25	35	20	638	651	+ 2.04%
(% of Total)	(77%)	(80%)	(13%)	(13%)	(5%)	(4%)	(6%)	(3%)	(100%)	(100%)	

\* Since some individuals were booked for multiple arson charges, the totals exceed the actual number of arrests (630 in 1983 and 641 in 1984).

Source: NYC Police Department, Crime Analysis Section, On Line Booking System.

Most Frequent Companion Felony Charges  
For Arrested Arsonists

Reckless Endangerment remains the most frequent companion charge for arrested arsonists, accounting for more than thirty percent of all companion felony charges. There were four less arrests for arson homicide in 1984. Eight of the 18 arson fires resulting in fatalities were cleared by arrest in 1983, compared with 5 of the 21 arson fires resulting in fatalities in 1984. (A number of 1984 arson homicides are still under active investigation.)

<u>Charge</u>	<u>1983 Number</u>	<u>1984 Number</u>	<u>1983 Attempts</u>	<u>1984 Attempts</u>	<u>1983 Total</u>	<u>1984 Total</u>
Reckless Endangerment	151	161	2	2	153	163
Burglary	67	64	2	5	69	69
Criminal Mischief	60	81	2	3	62	84
Assault	35	32	6	2	41	47
Crim. Poss. of Weapon	30	34	0	0	30	34
Conspiracy	19	6	0	0	19	6
Grand Larcany	18	21	3	3	21	24
Robbery	14	14	5	11	19	25
Crim. Poss. of Stolen Property	16	7	0	0	16	7
Murder	13	9	13	16	26	25
Crim. Poss. of Drugs	5	8	0	0	5	14
Ins. Fraud	3	4	1	1	4	5
Rape	2	1	0	0	2	1
Sexual Abuse	2	2	0	0	2	2
Gambling Offenses	2	0	0	0	2	0
Escape	1	2	0	0	1	2
Forgery	1	0	0	0	1	0
Criminal Facilitation	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Totals</u>	440	533	34	43	474	508

1983 to 1984

% Change:

(+21.14%)

(+26.47%)

(+7.17%)

Source: N.Y.C. Police Department, Crime Analysis Section, On Line Booking System.

Arson and Attempted Arson Arrests by Command, 1984

	<u>FIRE DEPARTMENT</u>		<u>POLICE DEPARTMENT</u>		<u>OTHER</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>PERCENTAGE OF ALL ARSON'S CLEARED</u>		
	<u>Arson Arrests</u>	<u>Arsons Cleared by Arrest</u>	<u>Arson Arrests</u>	<u>Arsons Cleared by Arrest</u>	<u>Arson Arrests</u>	<u>Arsons Cleared by Arrest</u>	<u>Arson Arrests</u>	<u>Arsons Cleared by Arrest</u>	<u># of Total Arsons</u>	<u># Cleared by Arrest</u>	<u>%</u>
Brooklyn	39	21	130	44	39	17	208	82	2,115	82	3.9
Bronx	59	44	92	36	13	6	164	86	1,496	86	5.7
Manhattan	47	40	76	39	33	9	156	88	1,148	88	7.7
Queens	26	18	31	17	28	14	85	49	725	49	6.8
Staten Island	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>387</u>	<u>11</u>	2.8
Total	175	127	350	141	115	48	640*	316	5,871**	381***	6.5

\*There was one arson arrest for which command was not identified.

\*\*There were fourteen arsons for which location of crime was not identified.

\*\*\*Includes 65 additional arrests made by the Fire Department during 1984 which cleared arson cases, but which do not appear on OLBS because charge was other than arson. Fire Marshals thus made 240 arrests which cleared 192 arson cases.

Source: NYPD, Crime Analysis Section, On Line Booking System (Arson Arrests); NYC Fire department, Bureau of Fire Investigation (Arsons Cleared by Arrest).

In interpreting these figures, it is important to realize that the NYPD and other commands will make arrests for arson and attempted arson for which the NYFD has no record (e.g., small fires which did not result in a firefighting response). Conversely, there were a number of arrests made by the NYPD on which the NYFD assisted (particularly during the first six months of the year when Team Policing held sway in the Bronx and Brooklyn North). In addition, since fire marshals conduct forensic investigations of every arson fire, they should be credited with an assist on every non-NYFD arrest that clears an arson fire. Finally, there are multiple defendants charged with the same arson crime, and some arson arrests clear more than one arson fire. On a city-wide basis, 6.5% of all arsons recorded by the NYFD during 1984 were cleared by arrest. Although ranking third in total arson arrests, Manhattan has the highest percentage (nearly 8%) cleared by arrest. Brooklyn, with the greatest number of arrests, has the second lowest percentage (nearly 4%) cleared by arrest.

According to the FBI's Uniform Reporting Program, New York City's arson clearance rate of 6.5% is comparable to that of Los Angeles and Detroit--the only other cities in the U.S.A. which recorded 5,000 or more arson cases in 1984. Los Angeles had a clearance rate of 3.0% (255 out of 5,120 arsons cleared by arrest), and Detroit recorded 5,505 arson cases and 283 arson arrests (the number of arsons cleared by these 283 arrests in Detroit is not known).

Time Elapsed, Crime to Arrest

Of the 620 arson arrests for which data on the time of the crime and time of the arrest was available, nearly 75% of these arrests occurred within 24 hours of the arson. The likelihood of a successful resolution of an arson investigation decreased rapidly thereafter, with only 25.2% of all arson arrests occurring one to three days after the crime.

<u>Time Elapsed</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Cumulative Percentage</u>
-Within 24 hours	464	74.8%
-24 to 48 hours	24	78.7%
-48 to 72 hours	8	80.0%
-Over 72 hours	124	100.0%
Total	620	

Source: NYPD, Crime Analysis Section, On Line Booking System.

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Arsons Cleared by Fire Marshal Arrests

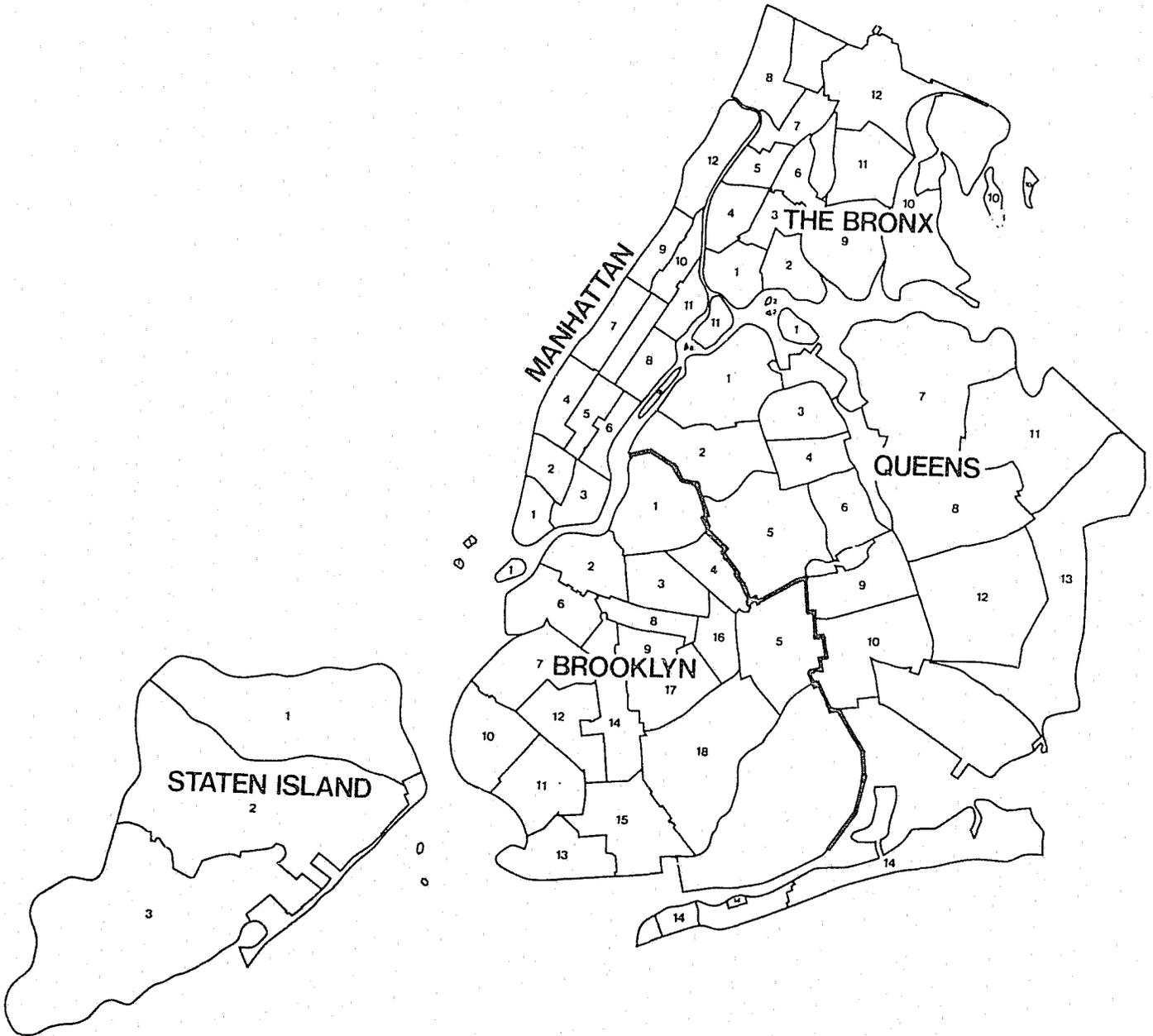
In analyzing 127 arsons cleared by fire marshal arrests (excluding attempted arsons, arson-related arrests and cases wherein fire marshals assisted other commands), it is clear that the 24 hours following an arson fire are crucial to its successful resolution. Fully two-thirds of arson fires cleared by fire marshal arrests occurred within a day of the crime.

<u>Time Elapsed Crime to Arrest</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
-Within 24 hrs.	85	66.9%
-24 to 48 hrs.	10	7.9%
-48 to 72 hrs.	2	1.6%
-Over 72 hrs.	30	23.6%
Total	127	100.0%

Source: NYPD Crime Analysis Section, On Line Booking System; NYFD, Bureau of Fire Investigation.

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# 1984 ARSON BY COMMUNITY DISTRICT



### 1984 RED CAP DEPLOYMENT

The Red Cap Program was expanded to three task forces of 50 fire marshals each during 1984, with the addition of Task Force #3 in East New York in December. These units are highly visible and highly mobile. They respond to almost every fire and alarm in selected community districts. Since they investigate nearly all fires, not just those cases referred by Battalion Chiefs, significantly more arson is reported during the length of their deployment. Vacant buildings are targeted for special attention by Red Caps because these structures are especially susceptible to arsonists.

<u>Borough</u>	<u>Community District</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Length of Patrol</u>
Bronx	Fordham/Bedford Park	(CD# 7)	01/03/84 to 06/30/84
Bronx	Marble Hill/Riverdale	(CD# 8)	01/03/84 to 06/30/84
Bronx	Highbridge	(CD# 4)	08/02/84 to 12/31/84
Brooklyn	Williamsburg/Greenpoint	(CD# 1)	01/01/84 to 03/30/84
Brooklyn	East New York	(CD# 5)	12/07/84 to 12/31/84
Manhattan	Central Harlem	(CD#10)	04/01/84 to 12/31/84

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Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.

Four of the five community districts which the Red Caps patrolled during 1983 (Lower East Side, Williamsburg, East Tremont, Woodside and Ridgewood) experienced significant declines in arson and fire rates in 1984. These decreases ranged from 15 to 39 percent in structural arsons and from five to 26 percent in all structural fires. The exception was Woodside, which experienced a decline in arson but an increase of three accidental fires.

Ranking of Community Districts  
by Number of Arsons in 1984

<u>Rank</u>		<u>Name</u>	<u>Borough</u>	<u>CD No.</u>	<u>Total</u>				
<u>'83</u>	<u>'84</u>				<u>Arsons</u>	<u>Occupied</u>	<u>Vacant</u>	<u>Auto</u>	<u>Other</u>
5	1	Central Harlem <sup>1</sup>	Manhattan	(CD#10)	304	204	83	16	1
6	2	Highbridge <sup>1</sup>	Bronx	(CD# 4)	290	151	119	20	0
4	3	East New York <sup>1</sup>	Brooklyn	(CD# 5)	265	126	117	21	1
3	4	Williamsburg/Greenpoint <sup>3</sup>	Brooklyn	(CD# 1)	244	103	91	50	0
8	5	Mott Haven	Bronx	(CD# 1)	220	92	114	13	1
1	6	Brownsville	Brooklyn	(CD#16)	202	121	71	10	0
13	7	East Harlem	Manhattan	(CD#11)	189	102	76	10	1
14	8	North Shore	Staten Is.	(CD# 1)	187	72	53	58	4
2	9	Morris Heights	Bronx	(CD# 5)	181	97	77	7	0
9	10	Bedford Stuyvesant	Brooklyn	(CD# 3)	180	127	37	16	0
1	11	E. Tremont/West Farms <sup>2</sup>	Bronx	(CD# 6)	178	67	102	9	0
7	12	Morrisania	Bronx	(CD# 3)	148	79	62	7	0
9	13	Bushwick	Brooklyn	(CD# 4)	136	80	48	8	0
25	14	Fordham/Bedford Park <sup>1</sup>	Bronx	(CD# 7)	135	87	27	17	4
15	15	Coney Island	Brooklyn	(CD#13)	122	89	25	8	0
32	16	West Side	Manhattan	(CD# 7)	118	103	14	0	1
20	17	Jamaica/St. Albans	Queens	(CD#12)	116	76	28	11	1
39	18	Central Area	Staten Is.	(CD# 2)	112	41	14	56	1
12	19	Lower E. Side/E.Village <sup>2</sup>	Manhattan	(CD# 3)	110	76	30	4	0
16	20	Crown Heights (North)	Brooklyn	(CD# 8)	108	84	23	1	0
19	21	Hunts Point	Bronx	(CD# 2)	103	40	57	6	0
22	22	Washington Hgts/Inwood	Manhattan	(CD#12)	95	70	15	9	1
30	23	Bensonhurst	Brooklyn	(CD#11)	92	58	11	22	1
18	=	Borough Park	Brooklyn	(CD#12)	92	44	16	31	1
25	=	Park Slope/Red Hook	Brooklyn	(CD# 6)	92	49	32	10	1
28	26	The Rockaways	Queens	(CD#14)	91	62	24	5	0
29	27	Sedgewick/Parkchester	Bronx	(CD# 9)	88	63	10	15	0
17	=	Fort Greene	Brooklyn	(CD# 2)	88	62	19	7	0
35	29	Sheepshead Bay	Brooklyn	(CD#15)	87	52	12	23	0
41	30	South Shore	Staten Is.	(CD# 3)	86	21	17	46	2
23	31	Flatbush	Brooklyn	(CD#14)	81	68	9	3	1
24	=	Sunset Park	Brooklyn	(CD# 7)	81	50	8	23	0
34	33	Canarsie/Flatlands	Brooklyn	(CD#18)	74	52	5	17	0

Rank		Name	Borough	CD No.	Total				
'83	'84				Arsons	Occupied	Vacant	Auto	Other
27	34	West Harlem	Manhattan	(CD# 9)	73	59	11	3	0
31	=	Chelsea/Clinton	Manhattan	(CD# 4)	73	61	7	5	0
21	=	East Flatbush	Brooklyn	(CD#17)	73	58	9	6	0
35	37	Astoria/Long Island City	Queens	(CD# 1)	72	57	6	7	2
32	38	Midtown	Manhattan	(CD# 5)	67	63	4	0	0
45	39	Kew Gardens/Richmond Hill	Queens	(CD# 9)	66	32	12	20	2
40	40	Crown Heights (South)	Brooklyn	(CD# 9)	60	52	7	1	0
42	41	Glen Oaks/Laurelton	Queens	(CD#13)	59	37	9	11	2
38	42	Flushing/Whitestone	Queens	(CD# 7)	47	33	6	8	1
35	43	Williamsbridge/Wakefield	Bronx	(CD#12)	46	34	4	8	0
44	44	Ridgewood/Glendale <sup>2</sup>	Queens	(CD# 5)	45	23	5	16	1
52	45	Howard Beach/Ozone Park	Queens	(CD#10)	44	25	8	11	0
58	=	Jamaica Estates/Fresh Mead.	Queens	(CD# 8)	43	29	6	7	1
48	47	Marble Hill/Riverdale <sup>1</sup>	Bronx	(CD# 8)	39	23	5	10	1
51	=	Corona/Elmhurst	Queens	(CD# 4)	38	29	0	8	1
57	49	Bay Ridge	Brooklyn	(CD#10)	37	19	4	13	1
47	50	Morris Pk/Pelham	Bronx	(CD#11)	35	22	1	8	4
42	51	Jackson Hgts./E. Elmhurst	Queens	(CD# 3)	34	28	3	3	0
50	52	Woodside <sup>2</sup>	Queens	(CD# 2)	33	16	5	10	2
53	53	Murray Hill	Manhattan	(CD# 6)	32	26	2	3	1
46	54	Greenwich Village	Manhattan	(CD# 2)	31	25	2	4	0
55	=	Throgs Neck/CoC/City Is	Bronx	(CD#10)	31	21	3	6	1
54	56	Lower Manhattan	Manhattan	(CD# 1)	28	25	3	0	0
48	=	E. Side/Yorkville	Manhattan	(CD# 8)	28	25	2	1	0
59	58	Bayside/Douglaston	Queens	(CD#11)	21	14	1	6	0
55	59	Forest Hills/Rego Park	Queens	(CD# 6)	15	13	0	2	0
		Other*			5	3	1	1	0
		C.D. Designation Unavailable			14	0	12	0	2
		Total			5,885	3,520	1,584	737	44

<sup>1</sup>C.D. where Red Caps assigned for part of 1984.

<sup>2</sup>C.D. where Red Caps assigned for part of 1983.

<sup>3</sup>C.D. where Red Caps assigned for part of 1983 & 1984.

\*Major parks and airports which serve more than one community district.

Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.

Thirty of the City's 59 community districts experienced declines in arson during 1984 and 29 witnessed increases. The largest decrease was registered in East Tremont/West Farms, Bronx, (-125 cases) while the largest increase occurred in West Side, Manhattan (+43 cases).

Ranking of Community Districts  
by Number of Structural Arsons

RANK		Name	Borough	CD No.	1983	1984	% Change
1983	1984				Structural	Structural	
4	1	Central Harlem <sup>1</sup>	Manhattan	(CD#10)	246	287	+16.66
5	2	Highbridge <sup>1</sup>	Bronx	(CD# 4)	237	270	+13.92
3	3	East New York <sup>1</sup>	Brooklyn	(CD# 5)	247	243	- 1.62
8	4	Mott Haven	Bronx	(CD# 1)	207	206	- 0.48
6	5	Williamsburg/Greenpoint <sup>3</sup>	Brooklyn	(CD# 1)	232	194	-16.38
10	6	Brownsville	Brooklyn	(CD#16)	187	192	+ 2.67
13	7	East Harlem	Manhattan	(CD#11)	144	178	+23.61
1	8	Morris Heights	Bronx	(CD# 5)	289	174	-39.79
2	9	E.Tremont/West Farms <sup>2</sup>	Bronx	(CD# 6)	280	169	-39.64
9	10	Bedford Stuyvesant	Brooklyn	(CD# 3)	189	164	-13.23
7	11	Morrisania	Bronx	(CD# 3)	217	141	-35.02
11	12	Bushwick	Brooklyn	(CD# 4)	183	128	-30.05
17	13	North Shore	Staten Is.	(CD# 1)	115	125	+ 8.70
32	14	West Side	Manhattan	(CD# 7)	69	117	+69.59
14	15	Coney Island	Brooklyn	(CD#13)	132	114	-13.64
22	=	Fordham/Bedford Park <sup>1</sup>	Bronx	(CD# 7)	85	114	+34.11
15	17	Crown Heights (North)	Brooklyn	(CD# 8)	129	107	-17.05
12	18	Lower E. Side/E.Village <sup>2</sup>	Manhattan	(CD# 3)	165	106	-35.76
20	19	Jamaica/St.Albans	Queens	(CD#12)	92	104	+13.04
18	20	Hunts Point	Bronx	(CD# 2)	99	97	- 2.02
=26	21	The Rockaways	Queens	(CD#14)	80	86	+ 7.50
19	22	Washington Hghts/Inwood	Manhattan	(CD#12)	93	85	- 8.60
=26	23	Parkslope/Red Hook	Brooklyn	(CD# 6)	80	81	+ 1.25
16	=	Fort Greene	Brooklyn	(CD# 2)	120	81	-32.50
23	25	Flatbush	Brooklyn	(CD#14)	84	77	- 8.33
29	26	Sedgewick/Parkchester	Bronx	(CD# 9)	72	73	+ 1.39
=24	27	West Harlem	Manhattan	(CD# 9)	83	70	-15.66
=35	28	Bensonhurst	Brooklyn	(CD#11)	57	69	+21.05
=30	29	Chelsea/Clinton	Manhattan	(CD# 4)	70	68	- 2.86
21	30	East Flatbush	Brooklyn	(CD#17)	90	67	-25.56
28	=	Midtown	Manhattan	(CD# 5)	73	67	- 8.22
39	32	Sheepshead Bay	Brooklyn	(CD#15)	53	64	+20.75
=35	33	Astoria/Long Island City	Queens	(CD# 1)	57	63	+10.53

RANK		Name	Borough	CD No.	1983	1984	% Change
1983	1984				Structural	Structural	
24	34	Borough Park	Brooklyn	(CD#12)	83	60	-27.72
37	35	Crown Heights (South)	Brooklyn	(CD# 9)	54	59	+ 9.26
30	36	Sunset Park	Brooklyn	(CD# 7)	70	58	-17.14
37	37	Canarsie/Flatlands	Brooklyn	(CD#18)	54	57	+ 5.56
40	38	Central Area	Staten Is.	(CD# 2)	48	55	+14.58
41	39	Glen Oaks/Laurelton	Queens	(CD#13)	46	46	0.00
47	40	Kew Gardens/Richmond Hill	Queens	(CD# 9)	35	44	+25.71
34	41	Flushing/Whitestone	Queens	(CD# 7)	60	39	-35.00
43	42	South Shore	Staten Is.	(CD# 3)	39	38	- 2.56
33	=	Williamsbridge/Wakefield	Bronx	(CD#12)	63	38	-39.68
57	44	Jamaica Est./Fresh Mead.	Queens	(CD# 9)	18	35	+94.44
55	45	Howard Beach/Ozone Park	Queens	(CD#10)	23	33	+43.48
42	46	Jackson Hghts/E.Elmhurst	Queens	(CD# 3)	45	31	-31.11
=51	47	Corona/Elmhurst	Queens	(CD# 4)	28	29	+ 3.57
49	48	Ridgewood/Glendale <sup>2</sup>	Queens	(CD# 5)	33	28	-15.15
46	=	Marble Hill/Riverdale <sup>1</sup>	Bronx	(CD# 8)	36	28	-22.22
50	=	Murray Hill	Manhattan	(CD# 6)	31	28	- 9.68
=51	=	Lower Manhattan	Manhattan	(CD# 1)	28	28	0.00
=44	52	Greenwich Village	Manhattan	(CD# 2)	38	27	-28.95
=44	=	East Side/Yorkville	Manhattan	(CD# 8)	38	27	-28.95
58	54	Throgs Neck/Co.City	Bronx	(CD#10)	17	24	+41.18
56	55	Bay Ridge	Brooklyn	(CD#10)	19	23	+21.05
48	=	Morris PK/Pelham	Bronx	(CD#11)	34	23	-32.35
54	57	Woodside <sup>2</sup>	Queens	(CD# 2)	24	21	-12.50
59	58	Bayside/Douglaston	Queens	(CD#11)	12	15	+25.00
53	59	Forest Hills/Rego Park	Queens	(CD#10)	25	13	-48.00
		Other*			--	4	--
		C.D. Designation Unavailable			--	12	--
					5,557	5,104	-8.2

<sup>1</sup> C.D. where Red Caps assigned for part of 1984

<sup>2</sup> C.D. where Red Caps assigned for part of 1983

<sup>3</sup> C.D. where Red caps assigned for part of 1983 & 1984

\*Includes major parks & airports which serve more than one community district.

Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.

Thirty-three community districts experienced declines in structural arson during 1984; 24 districts experienced increases, and two remained at the same level. The largest decrease occurred in East Tremont/West Farms, Bronx (-111 cases) while the largest increase occurred in West Side, Manhattan (+48 cases).

Ranking of Community Districts  
By Number of Structural Fires

Struct. Arson Rank	Struct. Fire Rank	Name	Borough	C.D. No.	No. Struct. Fires	% Change 1983 to 1984
10	1	Bedford Stuyvesant	Brooklyn	(CD# 3)	1,290	- .62%
1	2	Central Harlem <sup>1</sup>	Manhattan	(CD#10)	1,281	- 9.02%
2	3	Highbridge <sup>1</sup>	Bronx	(CD# 4)	1,198	- 8.27%
7	4	East Harlem	Manhattan	(CD#11)	1,196	+ 2.93%
3	5	East New York <sup>1</sup>	Brooklyn	(CD# 5)	1,118	- 2.36%
9	6	Morris Heights	Bronx	(CD# 5)	1,041	-13.11%
28	7	Fort Greene	Brooklyn	(CD# 2)	976	+ 1.04%
6	8	Brownsville	Brooklyn	(CD#16)	963	+ 2.99%
19	9=	Lower East Side/E. Village <sup>2</sup>	Manhattan	(CD# 3)	962	-12.55%
5	=	Mott Haven	Bronx	(CD# 1)	962	+ 4.34%
16	11	West Side	Manhattan	(CD# 7)	953	+ 6.96%
12	12	Washington Hts./Inwood	Manhattan	(CD#12)	939	- .42%
4	13	Williamsburg/Greenpoint <sup>3</sup>	Brooklyn	(CD# 1)	900	- 5.46%
=34	14	West Harlem	Manhattan	(CD# 9)	878	- 6.30%
27	15	Sedgewick/Parkchester	Bronx	(CD# 9)	835	- 5.76%
20	16	Crown Heights (North)	Brooklyn	(CD# 8)	822	-10.55%
17	17	Jamaica/St.Albans	Queens	(CD#12)	801	- 1.35%
38	18	Midtown	Manhattan	(CD# 5)	787	+11.00%
=36	18	East Flatbush	Brooklyn	(CD#17)	720	- 5.76%
12	20	Morrisania	Bronx	(CD# 3)	704	+ 1.59%
31	21	Flatbush	Brooklyn	(CD#14)	681	- 2.71%
14	22	Fordham/Bedford Park <sup>1</sup>	Bronx	(CD# 7)	636	- 9.79%
15	23	Coney Island	Brooklyn	(CD#13)	596	- 1.00%
=57	24	E. Side/Yorkville	Manhattan	(CD# 8)	593	-11.23%
40	25	Crown Heights (South)	Brooklyn	(CD# 9)	570	-11.21%
35	26	Chelsea/Clinton	Manhattan	(CD# 4)	543	-12.28%
11	27	E. Tremont/W. Farms <sup>2</sup>	Bronx	(CD# 6)	541	-25.58%
13	28	Bushwick	Brooklyn	(CD# 4)	531	-17.03%
26	29=	The Rockaways	Queens	(CD#14)	529	- 3.47%
8	=	North Shore	Staten Is.	(CD# 1)	529	- 7.52%
37	31	Astoria/Long Is.City	Queens	(CD# 1)	525	+ 5.21%
25	32	Park Slope/Red Hook	Brooklyn	(CD# 6)	486	- 9.67%

Struct. Arson	Struct. Fire	Name	Borough	C.D. No.	No. Struct. Fires	% Change 1983 to 1984
=42	33	Flushing/Whitestone	Queens	(CD# 7)	477	- 6.29%
53	34	Murray Hill	Manhattan	(CD# 6)	465	- 3.53%
54	35	Greenwich Village	Manhattan	(CD# 2)	450	-10.89%
24	36	Borough Park	Brooklyn	(CD#12)	413	-16.57%
43	37	Williamsbridge/Wakfield	Bronx	(DB#12)	383	-10.72%
21	38	Hunts Point	Bronx	(CD# 2)	362	-11.49%
29	39	Sheepshead Bay	Brooklyn	(CD#15)	360	+ 9.46%
55	40	Throgs Nk/C-O-C/City Is.	Bronx	(CD#10)	353	+17.28%
41	41	Glen Caks/Laurelton	Queens	(CD#13)	343	+ 6.52%
=32	42	Sunset Park	Brooklyn	(CD# 7)	324	-22.86%
47	43	Marble Hill/Riverdale <sup>1</sup>	Bronx	(CD# 8)	322	- 4.17%
49	44	Bay Ridge	Brooklyn	(CD#10)	321	-13.48%
33	45	Canarsie/Flatlands	Brooklyn	(CD#18)	318	- 7.29%
51	46	Jackson Hgts/E.Elmhurst	Queens	(CD# 3)	307	- 1.92%
48	47=	Corona/Elmhurst	Queens	(CD# 4)	306	- 4.97%
=46	=	Jam. Estates/Fresh Med.	Queens	(CD# 8)	306	- 6.71%
50	49	Morris Pk./Pelham	Bronx	(CD#11)	299	+ 4.55%
=56	50	Lower Manhattan	Manhattan	(CD# 1)	296	- 7.79%
52	51	Woodside <sup>2</sup>	Queens	(CD# 2)	294	+ 1.03%
23	52	Bensonhurst	Brooklyn	(CD#11)	269	0.00%
44	53	Ridgewood/Glendale <sup>2</sup>	Queens	(CD# 5)	236	- 12.7%
18	54	Central Area	Staten Is.	(CD# 2)	222	- 6.33%
39	55	Kew Gardens/Rich. Hill	Queens	(CD# 9)	218	+ .93%
58	56	Bayside/Douglaston	Queens	(CD#10)	194	+12.79%
59	57	Forest Hills/Rego Pk.	Queens	(CD# 6)	181	- 8.59%
45	58	Howard Beach/Ozone Pk.	Queens	(CD#10)	175	- 5.41%
30	59	South Shore	Staten Is.	(CD# 3)	162	- 8.99%
		C.D. Designation unavailable			<u>231</u>	-17.20%
		Total			34,673	- 5.07%

<sup>1</sup> C.D. where Red Caps assigned for part of 1984.

<sup>2</sup> C.D. where Red Caps assigned for part of 1983.

<sup>3</sup> C.D. where Red Caps assigned for part of 1983 & 1984.

Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.

There were 43 community districts that experienced declines in the total number of structural fires (accidental and arson combined) during 1984; 15 districts experienced increases; and one district showed no change. The largest decrease occurred in Morris Heights, Bronx (-157 fires), and the largest increase in Midtown, Manhattan (+78 fires).

Ranking of Community Districts  
By Percentage of Structural Fires  
Caused by Arson

Str. Fire Rank	Str. Arson Rank	Arson per Struct. Fire Rank	Name	Borough	No. of Struct. Fires	No. of Struct. Arsons	% of Struct. Fires Caused By Arson
27	11	1	E. Tremont/West Farms <sup>2</sup>	Bronx	541	169	31.24
38	21	2	Hunts Point	Bronx	362	97	26.80
52	23	3	Bensonhurst	Brooklyn	269	69	25.65
54	18	4	Central Area	Staten Is.	222	55	24.77
28	13	5	Bushwick	Brooklyn	531	128	24.11
=29	8	6	North Shore	Staten Is.	529	125	23.63
59	30	7	South Shore	Staten Is.	162	38	23.46
3	2	8	Highbridge <sup>1</sup>	Bronx	1,198	270	22.54
2	1	9	Central Harlem <sup>1</sup>	Manhattan	1,281	287	22.40
5	3	10	East New York <sup>1</sup>	Brooklyn	1,118	243	21.74
13	4	11	Williamsburg/Greenpoint <sup>3</sup>	Brooklyn	900	194	21.56
9	5	12	Mott Haven	Bronx	962	206	21.41
55	39	13	Kew Gardens/Richmond Hill	Queens	218	44	20.18
20	12	14	Morrisania	Bronx	704	141	20.02
8	6	15	Brownsville	Brooklyn	963	192	19.93
23	15	16	Coney Island	Brooklyn	596	114	19.13
58	=45	17	Howard Beach/Ozone Park	Queens	175	33	18.86
45	=33	18	Canarsie/Flatlands	Brooklyn	318	57	17.92
22	14	=	Fordham/Bedford Park <sup>1</sup>	Bronx	636	114	17.92
42	=31	20	Sunset Park	Brooklyn	324	58	17.90
39	29	21	Sheepshead Bay	Brooklyn	360	64	17.78
6	9	22	Morris Heights	Bronx	1,041	174	16.71
32	=24	23	Park Slope/Red Hook	Brooklyn	486	81	16.67
=29	=26	24	The Rockaways	Queens	529	86	16.26
4	7	25	East Harlem	Manhattan	1,196	178	14.88
36	=24	26	Borough Park	Brooklyn	413	60	14.53
=41	41	27	Glen Oaks/Laurelton	Queens	343	46	13.41
16	20	28	Crown Heights (North)	Brooklyn	822	107	13.02
17	17	29	Jamaica/St. Albans	Queens	801	104	12.98
1	10	30	Bedford Stuyvesant	Brooklyn	1,290	164	12.71
26	=35	31	Chelsea/Clinton	Manhattan	543	68	12.52

Str. Rank	Str. Arson Rank	Arson per Struct. Fire Rank	Name	Borough	No. of Struct. Fires	No. of Struct. Arsons	% of Struct. Fires Caused By Arson
11	16	32	West Side	Manhattan	953	117	12.28
31	37	33	Astoria/Long Island City	Queens	525	63	12.00
53	44	34	Ridgewood/Glendale <sup>2</sup>	Queens	236	28	11.86
=47	=45	35	Jam. Estates/Fresh Med	Queens	306	35	11.44
21	=31	36	Flatbush	Brooklyn	681	77	11.31
=9	19	37	Lower E. Side/E. Village <sup>2</sup>	Manhattan	962	106	11.02
25	40	38	Crown Heights (South)	Brooklyn	570	59	10.25
46	51	39	Jackson Hts./E. Elmhurst	Queens	307	31	10.10
37	43	40	Williamsbridge/Wakefield	Bronx	383	38	9.92
=47	=47	41	Corona/Elmhurst	Queens	306	29	9.48
50	=56	42	Lower Manhattan	Manhattan	296	28	9.46
19	=35	43	East Flatbush	Brooklyn	720	67	9.31
12	22	44	Washington Hgts/Inwood	Manhattan	939	85	9.05
15	27	45	Sedgewick/Parkchester	Bronx	835	73	8.74
43	47	46	Marble Hill/Riverdale <sup>1</sup>	Bronx	322	28	8.70
18	38	47	Midtown	Manhattan	787	67	8.51
7	=27	48	Fort Greene	Brooklyn	976	81	8.30
33	42	49	Flushing/Whitestone	Queens	477	39	8.18
14	=33	50	West Harlem	Manhattan	878	70	7.97
56	58	61	Bayside/Douglaston	Queens	194	15	7.73
49	50	52	Morris Pk/Pelham	Bronx	299	23	7.69
57	59	53	Forest Hills/Rego Park	Queens	181	13	7.18
44	49	54	Bay Ridge	Brooklyn	321	23	7.17
51	52	55	Woodside <sup>2</sup>	Queens	294	21	7.14
40	=54	56	Throgs Neck/COC/City Is	Bronx	353	24	6.80
34	53	57	Murray Hill	Manhattan	465	28	6.02
35	54	58	Greenwich Village	Manhattan	450	27	6.00
24	=56	59	E. Side/Yorkville	Manhattan	593	27	4.55
			Other*		--	4	--
			C.D. Designation Unavailable		231	12	--
			Total		34,673	5,104	14.72

<sup>1</sup> C.D. where Red Caps assigned for part of 1984.

<sup>2</sup> C.D. where Red Caps assigned for part of 1983.

<sup>3</sup> C.D. where Red Caps assigned for part of 1983 & 1984.

\*Includes major parks & airports which serve more than one community.

Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.

Percentage of Structural Arson Accounted for by Buildings  
Which Experienced Multiple Arson Fires, Ranked by C.D.

Rank		Name	Borough	*Number of Buildings	All		% of Structural Arson Fires Accounted For
1983	1984				**Number of Arson Fires	Structural Arson Fires	
15	1	West Side	Manhattan	19	55	117	47.0%
4	2	Morris Heights	Bronx	28	77	174	43.4%
8	3	Crown Heights (South)	Brooklyn	6	25	59	42.4%
10	4	Highbridge	Bronx	38	103	270	38.1%
14	5	Mott Haven	Bronx	35	78	206	37.9%
5	6	E. Tremont/W. Farms	Bronx	23	51	169	34.9%
16	7	Corona/Elmhurst	Queens	5	10	29	34.5%
13	8	Hunts Point	Bronx	10	33	97	34.0%
17	9	Lower East Side/E. Vill.	Manhattan	15	36	106	33.9%
36	10	Brownsville	Brooklyn	26	62	192	33.3%
30	11	Central Harlem	Manhattan	35	91	287	31.7%
21	12	East Harlem	Manhattan	19	59	178	31.1%
37	13	Midtown	Manhattan	7	21	67	31.3%
=52	14	Forest Hills/Rego Pk.	Queens	2	4	13	30.8%
=30	15	Chelsea/Clinton	Manhattan	9	20	68	29.4%
=30	16	Lower Manhattan	Manhattan	3	8	28	28.6%
22	17	Coney Island	Brooklyn	11	30	114	26.3%
7	18	Throgs Nk/C-O-C/City Is.	Bronx	3	6	24	25.0%
35	19	Crown Heights (North)	Brooklyn	10	26	107	24.3%
47	20=	East Flatbush	Brooklyn	7	15	67	23.4%
24	=	Morrisania	Bronx	15	33	141	23.4%
20	=	Park Slope/Red Hook	Brooklyn	7	19	81	23.4%
34	23	Canarsie/Flatlands	Brooklyn	6	13	57	22.8%
51	24	Central Area	Staten Is.	2	12	55	21.8%
40	25=	North Shore	Staten Is.	12	27	125	21.6%
11	=	Williamsburg/Greenpoint	Brooklyn	17	42	194	21.6%
12	27	Flatbush	Brooklyn	8	16	77	20.8%
3	28	Fordham/Bedford Park	Bronx	9	23	114	20.2%
1	29	Fort Greene	Brooklyn	6	16	81	19.8%
26	30	Bushwick	Brooklyn	10	25	128	19.5%

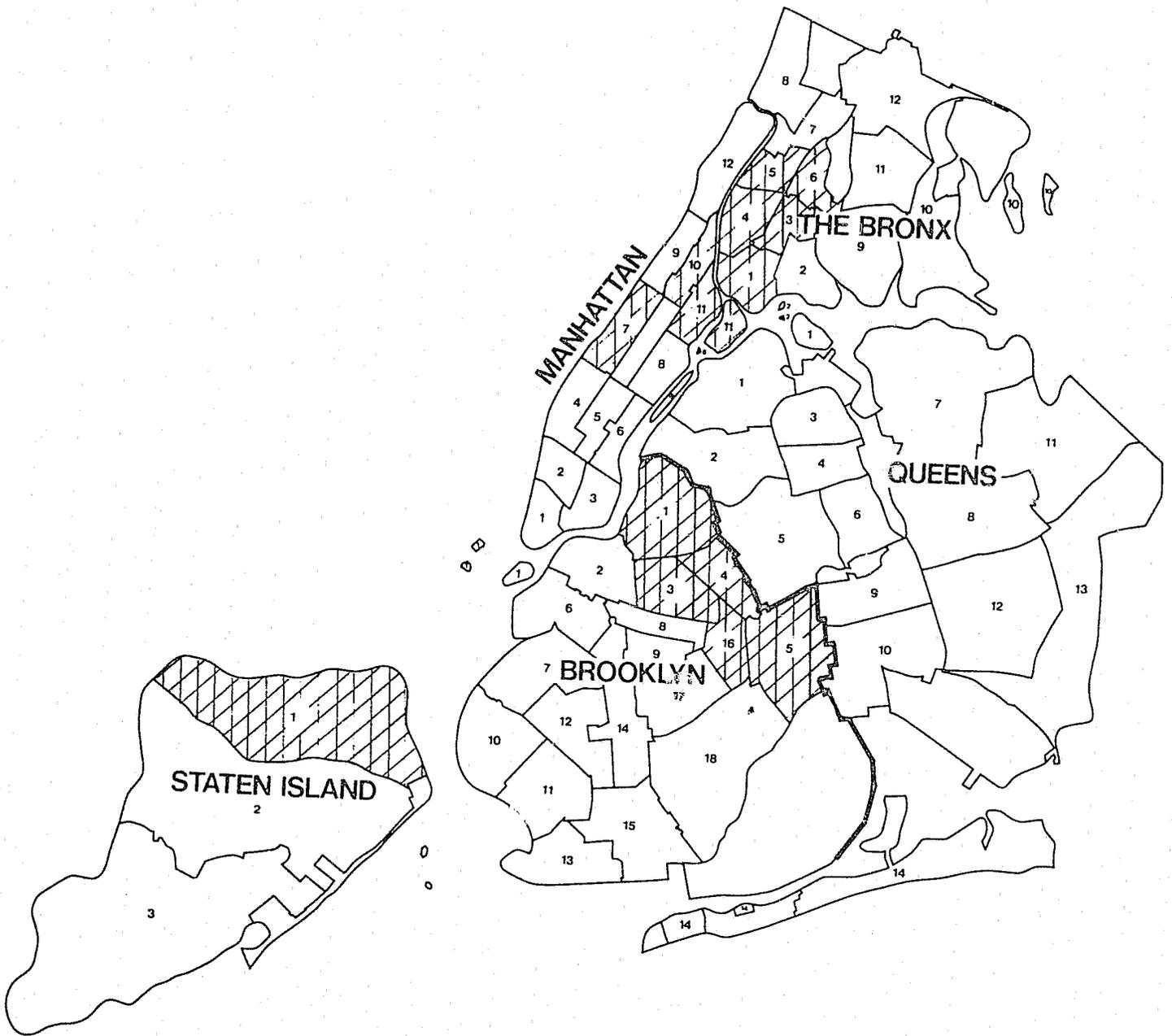
Rank		Name	Borough	*Number of Buildings	**Number of Arson Fires	All	% of Structural
1983	1984					Structural Arson Fires	Arson Fires Accounted For
2	31	Sedgewick/Parkchester	Bronx	6	14	73	19.2%
19	32=	Marble Hill/Riverdale	Bronx	1	5	28	17.9%
28	=	Williamsbridge/Wakefield	Bronx	2	5	38	17.9%
48	34	The Rockaways	Queens	6	15	86	17.4%
=52	35	Jam. Estates/Fresh Med.	Queens	3	6	35	17.1%
4	36	East New York	Brooklyn	16	40	243	16.5%
=52	37	Howard Beach/Ozone Pk.	Queens	2	5	33	15.2%
39	38	Bensonhurst	Brooklyn	4	10	69	14.5%
=41	39	Jamaica/St.Albans	Queens	7	15	104	14.4%
27	40	Borough Park	Brooklyn	4	8	60	13.3%
=41	41=	Glen Oaks/Laurelton	Queens	2	6	46	13.0%
46	=	Morris Pk./Pelham Pkwy.	Bronx	1	3	23	13.0%
6	43	West Harlem	Manhattan	4	9	70	12.9%
43	44	Sheepshead Bay	Brooklyn	4	8	64	12.5%
9	45	Murray Hill	Manhattan	1	3	28	10.7%
45	46	Bedford Stuyvesant	Brooklyn	8	16	164	9.8%
44	47	Kew Gardens/Rich. Hill	Queens	2	45	44	9.1%
=52	48	Bay Ridge	Brooklyn	1	2	23	8.7%
23	49	Sunset Park	Brooklyn	2	5	58	8.6%
33	50	E. Side/Yorkville	Manhattan	1	2	27	7.4%
28	51	Washington Hts./Inwood	Manhattan	3	6	85	7.1%
29	52	Jackson Hgts/E.Elmhurst	Queens	1	2	31	6.5%
18	53	Astoria/Long Is. City	Queens	2	4	63	6.3%
49	54	Flushing/Whitestone	Queens	1	2	39	5.1%
	55	Remaining CD's		-	-	129	-
		CD Designation unknown		2	4	12	-
		Total		489	1,237	5,104	24.2%

\*Number of buildings with more than one arson fire.

\*\*Number of arson fires in multiple arson buildings.

Source: N.Y.C. Fire Department.

Almost half (47%) of the structural arson in Manhattan's West Side (CD# 7) during 1984 occurred in 19 buildings which sustained more than one arson fire.



The fourteen community districts which account for more than half of the city's structural arson are shown in the shaded areas above.

Older multiple dwellings predominate in these areas. Community District #1 in Staten Island, Community District #6 in the Bronx, and Community District #5 in Brooklyn are the only districts in this group where one and two family homes outnumber multiple dwelling buildings.