



NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
OFFICE OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL

1220 Washington Ave., Building 7a, Floor 2 - Albany, New York

Arson Laboratory Improvement Program (ALIP) - 2013 Report

12 Month Analysis

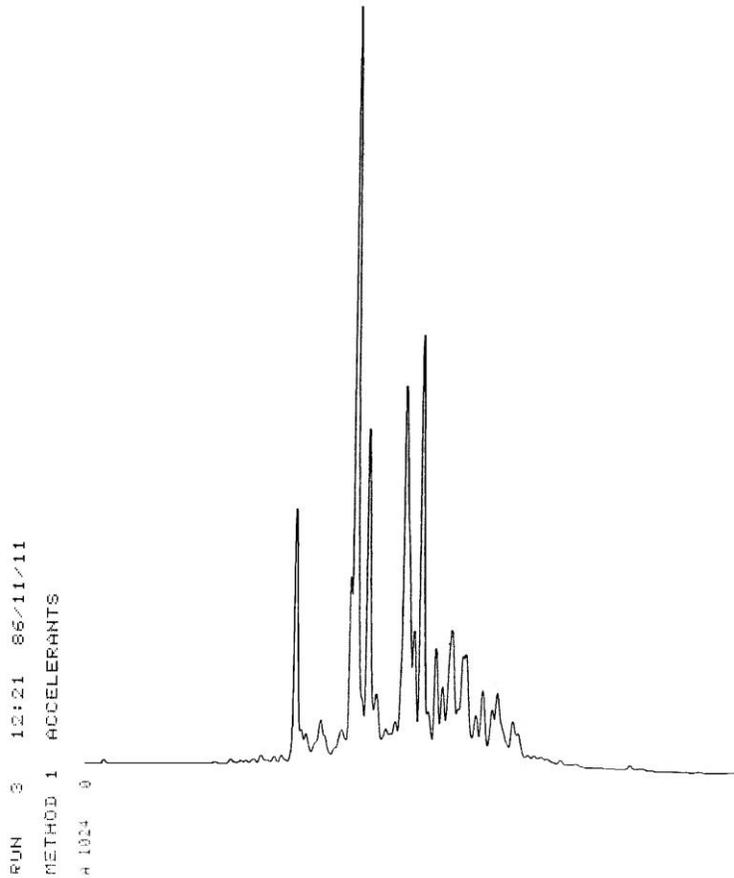


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Section 1 - INTRODUCTION

The annual Arson Laboratory Improvement Program [ALIP] Report tracks several data elements including a five-year comparison of total fire debris cases completed, the number of samples examined and the percentage of positives of each. For each laboratory data is further illustrated for their case work, including comparison samples, samples submitted as discovered by a K9 Unit and fire debris samples submitted as related to vehicle cases. Additional data elements include a breakdown by category of ignitable liquids identified and case processing times. For 2013, 60% of fire debris cases were positive with 50% of the suspect samples positive for ignitable liquids.

An additional element of the ALIP is the interaction provided through a Technical Working Group [TWG-Fire] which is made up of representatives from each crime lab conducting fire debris analysis along with participants from the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control and the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services. The TWG-Fire meets twice annually to foster valuable feedback from the laboratories relative to their casework as well as conduct special projects as related to the discipline of fire debris analysis.

The crime Laboratories participating in ALIP also receive financial support through a grant program coordinated by the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control's Inspection and Investigation Branch. This program provides laboratories with annual funding specific to supporting the cost of fire debris analysis.

Arson Laboratory Improvement Project

Participating Laboratories

2013

<p>Erie County Dept. of Central Police Services Forensic Laboratory Public Safety Campus Building 45 Elm Street Buffalo NY 14203 John Simich, Ph.D., Director</p>	<p>New York City Police Department Forensic Investigations Division 150-14 Jamaica Avenue Jamaica NY 11432 Dr. Scott O'Neill, Assistant Commissioner / Director</p>
<p>Monroe County Crime Lab 85 West Broad St 150 Plymouth Avenue So. Rochester NY 14614 John Clark, Administrator</p>	<p>Niagara County Crime Lab P.O. Box 496 5526 Niagara Extension Lockport NY 14095 Al Mack, Director</p>
<p>Nassau County Crime Lab Currently Off-Line for Fire Debris Analysis and under re-development</p>	<p>Onondaga County Crime Lab Center for Forensic Sciences 100 Elizabeth Blackwell Street Syracuse NY 13210 Dr. Kathy Corrado, Director</p>
<p>New York State Police Forensic Investigation Center Building 30 1220 Washington Avenue Albany NY 12226-3000 Ray Wickenheiser, Director</p>	<p>Suffolk County Crime Lab Forensic Sciences Building #487 725 Veterans Memorial Highway P.O. Box 6100 Hauppauge NY 11787-0099 Robert Genna, Director</p>
<p>New York State Police Western Regional Crime Lab 722 Homer Street Olean NY 14760-1130 Lt. David Gresham, Supervisor</p>	<p>Westchester County Crime Lab 10 Dana Road Valhalla NY 10595 Robert Adamo, Director</p>

Section 2 – Statistical Summaries

This report reflects the annual summary of the laboratories analysis of fire debris evidence.

Statewide Annual Averages 2009 - 2013

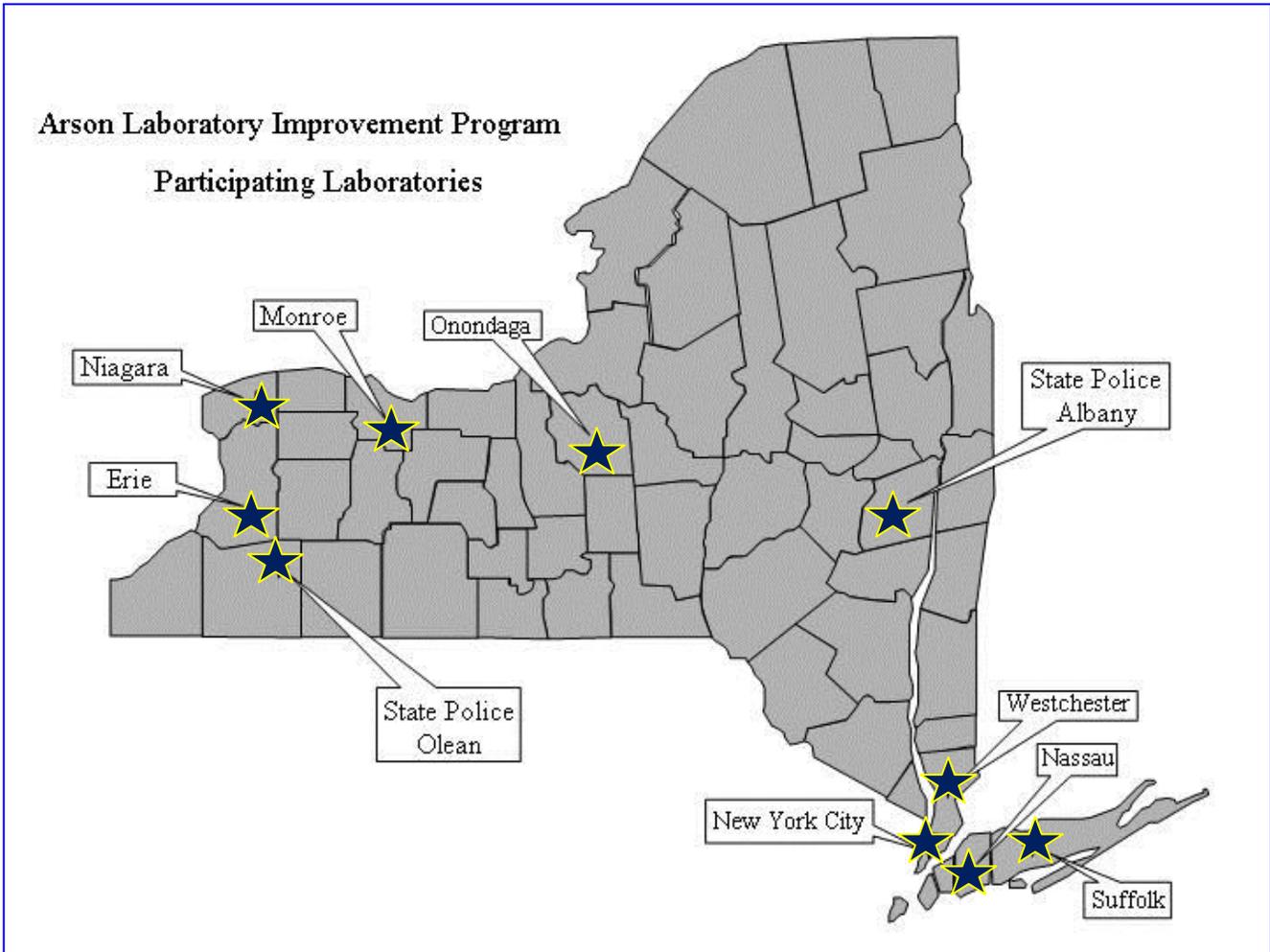
Year	Cases Completed	% Cases Positive	Samples Examined	% Samples Positive
2013	729 ↓	60%	1362 ↓	50%
2012	790 ↓	58%	1722 ↓	49%
2011	836 ↑	57%	1810 ↓	49%
2010	1228 ↑	60%	2535 ↑	46%
2009	1228 ↑	62%	1870 ↑	48%
5 Yr. Average	960	59%	1860	48%

↑ Indicates above or below five year average

2013 ALIP Summary Data by Laboratory

Laboratory	Cases Completed	% of Positive Cases	Suspect Samples Examined	% of Samples Positive	Comparison Samples Examined	% Comparison Samples Positive
State Police						
Headquarters - Albany	59	71%	206	50%	23	17%
Western Region - Olean	94	49%	218	62%	49	24%
City Labs						
New York City	132	60%	233	61%	13	15%
Counties						
Erie	130	51%	235	48%	5	20%
Monroe	111	52%	261	49%	21	10%
Niagara	25	68%	39	56%	1	0%
Onondaga	19	68%	39	56%	12	33%
Suffolk	42	90%	101	79%	3	33%
Westchester	17	35%	30	33%	10	25%

Section 3 – INDIVIDUAL LABORATORY DATA



State Police Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Headquarters, Albany

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours or %	Yearly Testimony
2013	12	35%	2

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
61	59	42	71%
Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Suspect Samples Positive	% of Positive Suspect Samples
229	206	103	50%
Comparison Samples Received	Comparison Samples Examined	Comparison Samples Positive	% of Positive Comparison Samples
23	23	4	17%
K9 Cases	K9 Cases % Positive	Vehicle Cases	Vehicle Cases % Positive
15	80%	6	67%

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffinic
37%	24%	7%	1%	0.0%
	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
	0.0%	0.0%	31%	

Case Submission From Time Of Collection		Case Turn Around Time	
Completed in 7 days	11%	Completed in 7 days	0.0%
Completed in 8-14 days	67%	Completed in 8-14 days	16%
Completed in 15-21 days	16%	Completed in 15-21 days	43%
Completed in 22-28 days	1%	Completed in 22-28 days	20%
Completed in more than 28 days	6%	Completed in more than 28 days	21%
Average days for case submission	13.10	Average days for case return	21.22

Comment Section

State Police Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: **Western Regional Crime lab, Olean**

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours or %	Yearly Testimony
2013	12	37	2

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
94	94	46	49%
Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Suspect Samples Positive	% of Positive Suspect Samples
222	218	136	62%
Comparison Samples Received	Comparison Samples Examined	Comparison Samples Positive	% of Positive Comparison Samples
52	49	12	24%
K9 Cases	K9 Cases % Positive	Vehicle Cases	Vehicle Cases % Positive
33	85%	21	86%

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffinic
43%	17%	3%	3%	0%
	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
	0.0%	3%	31%	

Case Submission From Time of Collection		Case Turn Around Time	
Completed in 7 days	48%	Completed in 7 days	45%
Completed in 8-14 days	21%	Completed in 8-14 days	47%
Completed in 15-21 days	10%	Completed in 15-21 days	5%
Completed in 22-28 days	5%	Completed in 22-28 days	1%
Completed in more than 28 days	16%	Completed in more than 28 days	2%
Average days for case submission	12.07	Average days for case return	7.20

Comment Section

City Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: **New York City**

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours or %	Yearly Testimony
2013	12	13%	1

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
108	132	79	60%
Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Suspect Samples Positive	% of Positive Suspect Samples
285	233	142	61%
Comparison Samples Received	Comparison Samples Examined	Comparison Samples Positive	% of Positive Comparison Samples
13	13	2	15%
K9 Cases	K9 Cases % Positive	Vehicle Cases	Vehicle Cases % Positive
0	0.0%	8	50%

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffinic
69%	21%	1%	1%	0.0%
	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
	0.0%	1%	7%	

Case Submission From Time of Collection		Case Turn Around Time	
Completed in 7 days	98%	Completed in 7 days	8%
Completed in 8-14 days	1%	Completed in 8-14 days	2%
Completed in 15-21 days	0.0%	Completed in 15-21 days	4%
Completed in 22-28 days	0.0%	Completed in 22-28 days	6%
Completed in more than 28 days	1%	Completed in more than 28 days	80%
Average days for case submission	3.45	Average days for case return	27.72

Comment Section

Cases completed reflect case carry over from previous year

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Erie

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours or %	Yearly Testimony
2013	12	13%	2

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
128	130	66	51%
Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Suspect Samples Positive	% of Positive Suspect Samples
250	235	113	48%
Comparison Samples Received	Comparison Samples Examined	Comparison Samples Positive	% of Positive Comparison Samples
7	5	1	20%
K9 Cases	K9 Cases % Positive	Vehicle Cases	Vehicle Cases % Positive
0	0.0%	27	56%

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffinic
77%	19%	0%	2%	0%
	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
	0%	2%	0%	

Case Submission From Time of Collection		Case Turn Around Time	
Completed in 7 days	80%	Completed in 7 days	6%
Completed in 8-14 days	7%	Completed in 8-14 days	9%
Completed in 15-21 days	0%	Completed in 15-21 days	24%
Completed in 22-28 days	3%	Completed in 22-28 days	26%
Completed in more than 28 days	0%	Completed in more than 28 days	35%
Average days for case submission	5.32	Average days for case return	18.14

Comment Section

Cases completed reflect case carry over from previous year

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: **Monroe**

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours or %	Yearly Testimony
2013	12	79%	0

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
110	111	58	52%
Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Suspect Samples Positive	% of Positive Suspect Samples
264	261	128	49%
Comparison Samples Received	Comparison Samples Examined	Comparison Samples Positive	% of Positive Comparison Samples
18	18	2	9%
K9 Cases	K9 Cases % Positive	Vehicle Cases	Vehicle Cases % Positive
0	0.0%	0	0.0%

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffinic
50%	44%	1%	0.0%	0.0%
	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
	0.0%	5%	0%	

Case Submission From Time Of Collection		Case Turn Around Time	
Completed in 7 days	97%	Completed in 7 days	76%
Completed in 8-14 days	0%	Completed in 8-14 days	18%
Completed in 15-21 days	1%	Completed in 15-21 days	4%
Completed in 22-28 days	0%	Completed in 22-28 days	1%
Completed in more than 28 days	2%	Completed in more than 28 days	1%
Average days for case submission	3.66	Average days for case return	5.57

Comment Section

Cases completed reflect case carry over from previous year

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: **Niagara**

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours or %	Yearly Testimony
2013	12	0	1

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
25	25	17	68%
Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Suspect Samples Positive	% of Positive Suspect Samples
39	39	22	56%
Comparison Samples Received	Comparison Samples Examined	Comparison Samples Positive	% of Positive Comparison Samples
1	1	0	0%
K9 Cases	K9 Cases % Positive	Vehicle Cases	Vehicle Cases % Positive
1	100.0%	9	100%

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffinic
75.0%	11%	0.0%	7%	0.0%
	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
	0.0%	0.0%	7%	

Case Submission From Time of Collection		Case Turn Around Time	
Completed in 7 days	94.0%	Completed in 7 days	92.0%
Completed in 8-14 days	6.0%	Completed in 8-14 days	8.0%
Completed in 15-21 days	0.0%	Completed in 15-21 days	0.0%
Completed in 22-28 days	0.0%	Completed in 22-28 days	0.0%
Completed in more than 28 days	0.0%	Completed in more than 28 days	0.0%
Average days for case submission	3.32	Average days for case return	3.64

Comment Section

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Onondaga

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours or %	Yearly Testimony
2013	12	0	1

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
22	19	13	68%
Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Suspect Samples Positive	% of Positive Suspect Samples
45	39	22	56%
Comparison Samples Received	Comparison Samples Examined	Comparison Samples Positive	% of Positive Comparison Samples
12	12	4	33%
K9 Cases	K9 Cases % Positive	Vehicle Cases	Vehicle Cases % Positive
0	0.0%	1	100%

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffinic
56%	34%	3%	0.0%	0.0%
	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
	0.0%	0.0%	7%	

Case Submission From Time of Collection		Case Turn Around Time	
Completed in 7 days	90%	Completed in 7 days	5%
Completed in 8-14 days	10%	Completed in 8-14 days	23%
Completed in 15-21 days	0.0%	Completed in 15-21 days	7%
Completed in 22-28 days	0.0%	Completed in 22-28 days	0.0%
Completed in more than 28 days	0.0%	Completed in more than 28 days	65%
Average days for case submission	3.70	Average days for case return	23.67

Comment Section

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: **Suffolk**

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours or %	Yearly Testimony
2013	12	24%	1

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
51	42	38	90%
Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Suspect Samples Positive	% of Positive Suspect Samples
135	101	80	79%
Comparison Samples Received	Comparison Samples Examined	Comparison Samples Positive	% of Positive Comparison Samples
4	3	1	33%
K9 Cases	K9 Cases % Positive	Vehicle Cases	Vehicle Cases % Positive
3	100%	18	78%

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffinic
77%	10%	0.0%	0.0%	1%
	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
	0.0%	3%	9%	

Case Submission From Time of Collection		Case Turn Around Time	
Completed in 7 days	67%	Completed in 7 days	0.0%
Completed in 8-14 days	21%	Completed in 8-14 days	0.0%
Completed in 15-21 days	3%	Completed in 15-21 days	0.0%
Completed in 22-28 days	6%	Completed in 22-28 days	0.0%
Completed in more than 28 days	3%	Completed in more than 28 days	100%
Average days for case submission	10.37	Average days for case return	31

Comment Section

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Westchester

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours or %	Yearly Testimony
2013	12	20%	0

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
27	17	6	35%
Suspect Samples Received	Suspect Samples Examined	Suspect Samples Positive	% of Positive Suspect Samples
56	30	10	33%
Comparison Samples Received	Comparison Samples Examined	Comparison Samples Positive	% of Positive Comparison Samples
16	10	4	40%
K9 Cases	K9 Cases % Positive	Vehicle Cases	Vehicle Cases % Positive
6	17%	4	25%

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffinic
34%	27%	6%	13%	0.0%
	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
	0.0%	0.0%	20%	

Case Submission From Time of Collection		Case Turn Around Time	
Completed in 7 days	67%	Completed in 7 days	0.0%
Completed in 8-14 days	21%	Completed in 8-14 days	0.0%
Completed in 15-21 days	3%	Completed in 15-21 days	0.0%
Completed in 22-28 days	6%	Completed in 22-28 days	0.0%
Completed in more than 28 days	3%	Completed in more than 28 days	100%
Average days for case submission	10.37	Average days for case return	31

Comment Section

New York State Executive Law Article 6 C Section 156 directs the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control to advise and assist in the coordination and strengthening of activities, programs, services, rules and regulations relating to arson suppression, detection, investigation to include matters to improve arson evidence analysis and testing.

Through the continued administration of the Arson Laboratory Improvement Program, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and the Office of Fire Prevention and Control remain committed to supporting arson evidence analysis and testing and working with the Division of Criminal Justice Services and New York Crime Laboratory Advisory Committee to maintain and improve such services aimed at combating the crime of arson.

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