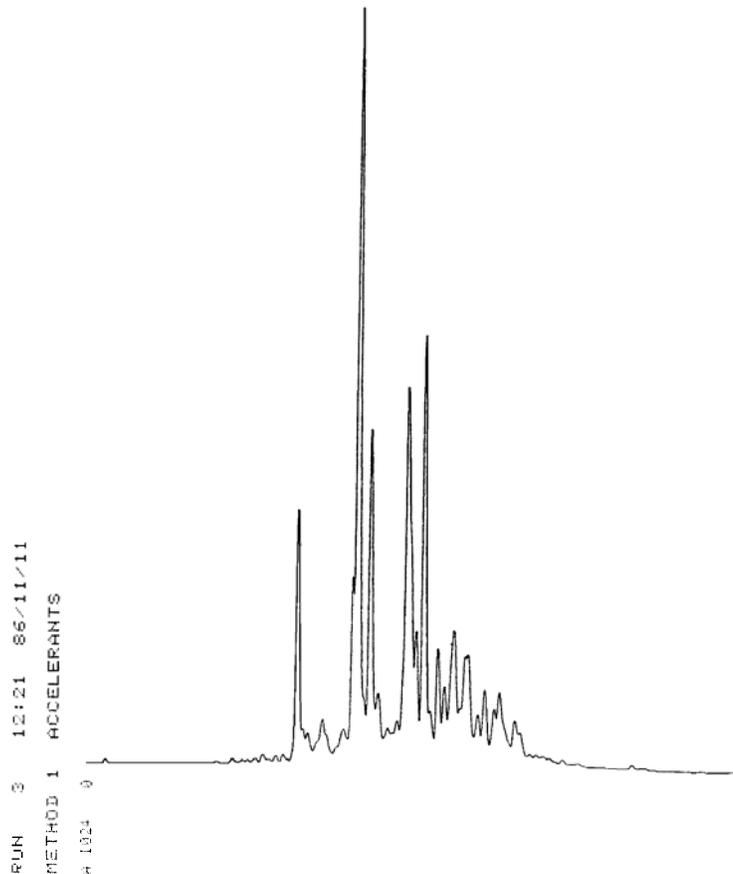

Arson Laboratory Improvement Program [ALIP] - 2008 Report

12 Month Analysis



David A. Paterson
Governor

Lorraine A. Cortés-Vázquez
Secretary of State

Floyd A. Madison
State Fire Administrator

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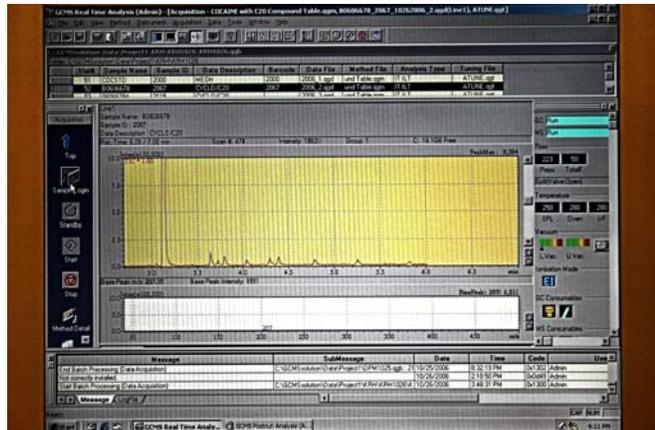
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Section 1 - INTRODUCTION

Arson is a crime that if left unrestrained inflicts destruction, terrorizes communities, and creates financial liability throughout the state. The legislature in 1979 charged the New York State Department of State, Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) with the responsibility for administering a coordinated, statewide arson control program. A component of this anti-arson effort includes the Arson Laboratory Improvement Program (ALIP). This program utilizes facts specifically related to the analysis of fire debris by forensic laboratories. Over the past 30 years, the ALIP has helped fortify the role of fire debris analysis in collaboration with police and fire investigations conducted in fighting the crime of arson in our state. Today more so than ever, the role of the Forensic Laboratory has become vital to the preparation and successful prosecution of Arson Crimes. The ALIP has also proven to be an asset in identifying training needs benefiting both the laboratory and the fire investigation community.

The ALIP currently includes ten laboratories in New York State that provide forensic services to local fire and law enforcement agencies. Presently, one lab is not processing fire debris. The Nassau County lab is in a transition and while Nassau's plan is indefinite, for now, fire debris samples collected from fire investigation units in Nassau County are

being processed by the New York State Police Forensic Laboratory. This year's report reflects data from nine labs reporting 12 months. As part of this program, each laboratory submits data monthly to OFPC Arson Bureau for review and tabulation. This data is then provided to the New York State



Division of Criminal Justice Services, the participating Laboratories, and the New York State Crime Laboratory Advisory Committee (CLAC).

The 2008 ALIP report tracks several data elements including a five-year comparison of the total fire debris cases examined by the number of positive samples found, broken down by

category of ignitable liquid, total number of samples examined, and the case processing time. An additional element of the report allows for general comments that often provide valuable feedback from the Laboratories relative to proper evidence packaging and submission by the investigation community.

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 Arson Bureau. This program provides laboratories with annual funding specific to supporting the cost of fire debris analysis. The current ALIP grant contract period runs from 2006 continuing through 2010.

A beneficial addition to the ALIP program has been the development of the Arson Technical Working Group, ATWG. This group established through NYS-CLAC is currently co-chaired by the OFPC Arson Bureau and includes representatives from each of the ten crime labs comprising the ALIP as well as from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services. The ATWG generally meets twice a year to review current issues specific to fire debris analysis, as well as providing a medium for discussion and education focused on improving aspects of analyzing fire debris evidence samples in support of arson prosecutions. The ATWG also undertakes projects which benefit the process of evidence identification, collection and analysis.

A current ATWG project involves the testing of fire suppression additives and their impact on canine searches and ignitable liquid vapor analysis. This project contains critical information that will assist the laboratory in identifying ignitable liquids that have been extinguished with suppression additives which has been submitted for analysis. The NYS OFPC



Arson Bureau is currently conducting test burns in conjunction with ATWG members. Data has been collected and is being reviewed. Once the project is completed in 2009, the ATWG will present their report to the Division of Criminal Justice Services, OFPC and the CLAC.

Arson Laboratory Improvement Project

Participating Laboratories

2008

<p>Erie County Dept. of Central Police Services Forensic Laboratory Public Safety Campus Building 45 Elm Street Buffalo NY 14203 John Simich, Director</p>	<p>New York City Forensic Investigations Division 150-14 Jamaica Avenue Jamaica NY 11432 Dr. Peter Pizzola, Director</p>
<p>Monroe County Rm 524 Public Safety Building 150 Plymouth Avenue So. Rochester NY 14614 Harvey VanHoven, Director</p>	<p>Niagara County P.O. Box 496 5526 Niagara Extension Lockport NY 14095 Al Mack, Director</p>
<p>Nassau County 1490 Franklin Avenue Mineola NY 11501 Lt. Granelle, Director</p>	<p>Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences 100 Elizabeth Blackwell Street Syracuse NY 13210 Dr. Kathy Corrado, Director</p>
<p>New York State Police Albany Lab 1220 Washington Avenue Albany NY 12226-3000 Inspector Gerald Zeosky, Director</p>	<p>Suffolk County Crime Laboratory 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. Robert Campbell, Supervisor</p>	<p>Westchester County 10 Dana Road Valhalla NY 10595 Robert Admono, Director</p>

Section 2 – Statistical Summaries

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

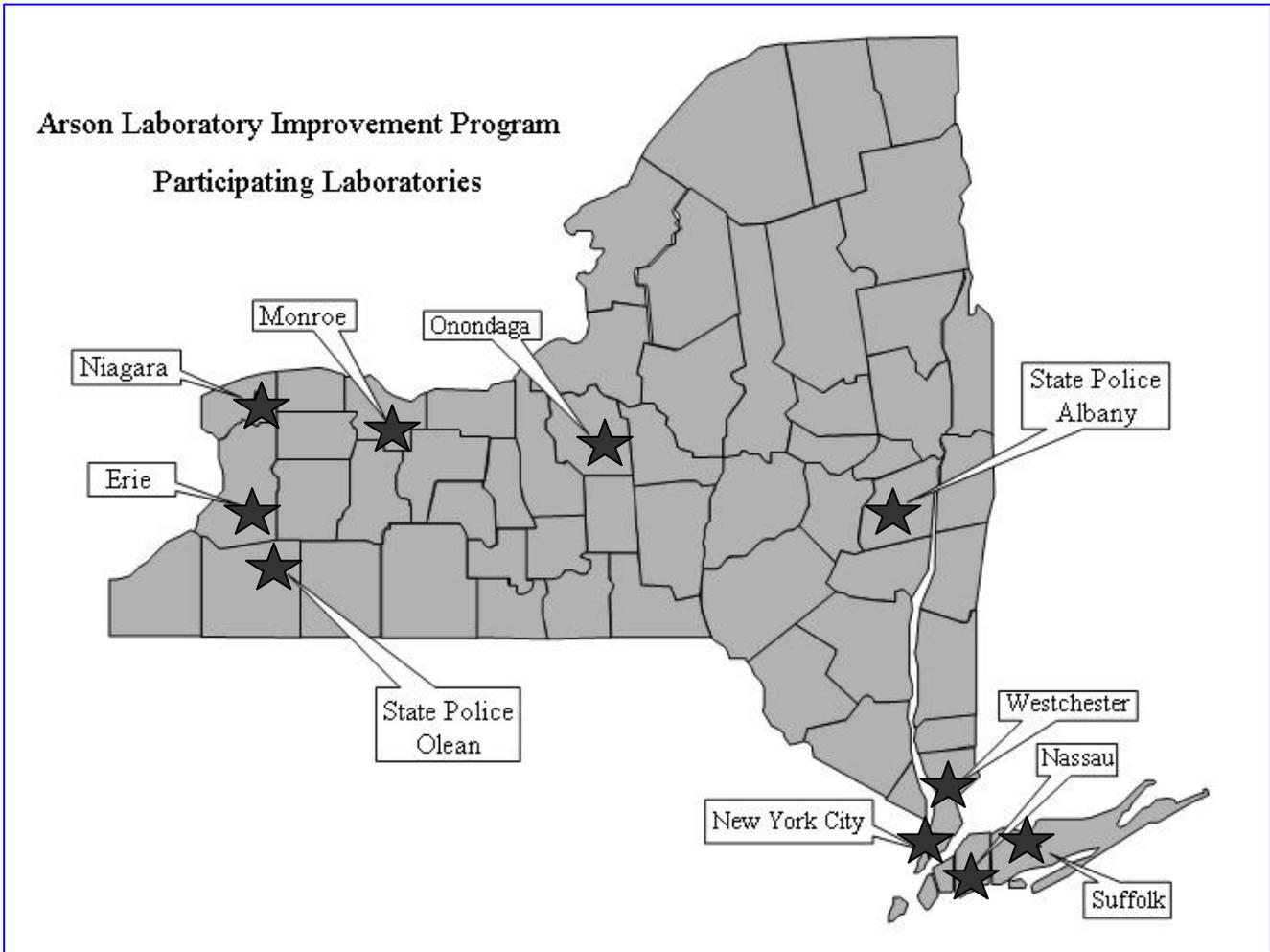
Statewide Annual Averages 2004 - 2008

Year	Total Fire Debris Cases Examined	Percent Cases Positive for Ignitable Liquids	Total Fire Debris Samples Examined	Percent of Samples Positive for Ignitable Liquids
2008	870	53%	2432	44.8%
2007	807	65.6%	2249	56.8%
2006	1031	59.4%	1967	47.4%
2005	847	55.3%	1919	45.5%
2004	860	50.2%	2006	39.4%
5 Yr Totals	4415	56.7%	8653	46.8%

2008 ALIP Summary Data by Laboratory

Laboratory	Months Reported	Cases Received	Cases Examined	Total Cases Percentage Positive	Total Samples Examined	Percentage of Positive Samples
State Police						
Headquarters - Albany	12	146	141	49%	486	34%
Western Region - Olean	12	99	99	48%	298	47%
City Labs						
New York City	12	213	141	80%	293	77%
Counties						
Erie	12	140	140	51%	264	49%
Monroe	12	152	153	49%	405	47%
Nassau	0	0	0	0	0	0
Niagara	12	17	17	47%	46	30%
Onondaga	12	44	39	54%	91	36%
Suffolk	12	83	96	65%	225	57%
Westchester	12	36	44	34%	97	27%

Section 3 – INDIVIDUAL LABORATORY DATA



State Police Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Headquarters, Albany

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2008	12	*40%	0

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
146	141	69	49%
Samples Received	Samples Examined	Samples Positive	% of Positive Samples
505	486	163	34%

Analytical method(s) utilized: GC/MS 486 Other 0

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffnic
57%	38%	0%	0%	0%
De-Arornatized Distillates	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
0%	0%	0%	5%	

CASE TURN AROUND TIME

Completed in 7 days	01.4%
Completed in 8-14 days	31.9%
Completed in 15 – 21 days	21.3%
Completed in 22-28 days	22.0%
Completed in more than 28 days	22.0%
Average number of days for case completion	19.98

Comment Section

*This reports total work hours in percentage of hours based on laboratory policy.

State Police Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Western Regional, Olean

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2008	12	670	0

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
99	99	48	48%
Samples Received	Samples Examined	Samples Positive	% of Positive Samples
309	298	139	47%

Analytical method(s) utilized: GC/MS 298 Other 0

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffnic
51%	15%	1%	3%	0%
De-Arornatized Distillates	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
0%	2%	1%	27%	

CASE TURN AROUND TIME

Completed in 7 days	18.2%
Completed in 8-14 days	59.6%
Completed in 15 – 21 days	18.2%
Completed in 22-28 days	04.0%
Completed in more than 28 days	00.0%
Average number of days for case completion	11.38

Comment Section

City Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: New York City

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2008	12	*78%	5

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
213	141	113	80%
Samples Received	Samples Examined	Samples Positive	% of Positive Samples
419	293	227	77%

Analytical method(s) utilized: GC/MS 293 Other 0

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffnic
70%	19%	4%	0%	0%
De-Arornatized Distillates	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
0%	0%	5%	0%	

CASE TURN AROUND TIME

Completed in 7 days	12.8%
Completed in 8-14 days	19.2%
Completed in 15 – 21 days	07.8%
Completed in 22-28 days	03.5%
Completed in more than 28 days	56.7%
Average number of days for case completion	22.37

Comment Section

*This reports total work hours in percentage of hours based on laboratory policy.

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Erie

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2008	12	827	0

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
140	140	71	51%
Samples Received	Samples Examined	Samples Positive	% of Positive Samples
266	264	129	49%

Analytical method(s) utilized: GC/MS 264 Other 0

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffnic
66%	27%	1%	3%	1%
De-Arornatized Distillates	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
0%	0%	2%	0%	

CASE TURN AROUND TIME

Completed in 7 days	10.0%
Completed in 8-14 days	21.4%
Completed in 15 – 21 days	25.0%
Completed in 22-28 days	20.0%
Completed in more than 28 days	23.6%
Average number of days for case completion	19.46

Comment Section

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Monroe

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2008	12	Not Reported	0

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
152	153	75	49%
Samples Received	Samples Examined	Samples Positive	% of Positive Samples
388	405	189	47%

Analytical method(s) utilized: GC/MS 405 Other 0

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffnic
52%	48%	0%	0%	0%
De-Arornatized Distillates	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
0%	0%	0%	0%	

CASE TURN AROUND TIME

Completed in 7 days	02.6%
Completed in 8-14 days	27.5%
Completed in 15 – 21 days	34.7%
Completed in 22-28 days	15.0%
Completed in more than 28 days	19.6%
Average number of days for case completion	19.32

Comment Section

Lab experiences carryover of samples that create overages in samples examined for the year.

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Nassau

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2008	0	0	0

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
0	0	0	0%
Samples Received	Samples Examined	Samples Positive	% of Positive Samples
0	0	0	0%

Analytical method(s) utilized: GC/MS 0 Other 0

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffnic
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
De-Arornatized Distillates	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
0%	0%	0%	0%	

CASE TURN AROUND TIME

Completed in 7 days	0.0%
Completed in 8-14 days	0.0%
Completed in 15 – 21 days	0.0%
Completed in 22-28 days	0.0%
Completed in more than 28 days	0.0%
Average number of days for case completion	0.0

Comment Section

No data reported this period – Laboratory not currently processing fire debris for ignitable liquid analysis. Fire Debris evidence samples are being processed by NYSP.

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Niagara

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2008	12	Not Reported	0

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
17	17	8	47%
Samples Received	Samples Examined	Samples Positive	% of Positive Samples
46	46	14	30%

Analytical method(s) utilized: GC/MS 46 Other 0

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffnic
79%	14%	0%	7%	0%
De-Arornatized Distillates	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
0%	0%	0%	0%	

CASE TURN AROUND TIME

Completed in 7 days	23.5%
Completed in 8-14 days	35.3%
Completed in 15 – 21 days	29.4%
Completed in 22-28 days	11.8%
Completed in more than 28 days	0.0%
Average number of days for case completion	12.82

Comment Section

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Onondaga

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2008	12	Not Reported	0

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
44	39	21	54%
Samples Received	Samples Examined	Samples Positive	% of Positive Samples
98	91	33	36%

Analytical method(s) utilized: GC/MS 91 Other 0

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffnic
39%	52%	0%	0%	0%
De-Arornatized Distillates	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
0%	0%	9%	0%	

CASE TURN AROUND TIME

Completed in 7 days	07.7%
Completed in 8-14 days	17.9%
Completed in 15 – 21 days	10.3%
Completed in 22-28 days	20.5%
Completed in more than 28 days	43.6%
Average number of days for case completion	22.69

Comment Section

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Suffolk

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2008	12	1113	0

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
83	96	62	65%
Samples Received	Samples Examined	Samples Positive	% of Positive Samples
207	225	127	57%

Analytical method(s) utilized: GC/MS 222 Other 3

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffnic
80%	10%	0%	0%	0%
De-Arornatized Distillates	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
1%	0%	1%	8%	

CASE TURN AROUND TIME

Completed in 7 days	00.0%
Completed in 8-14 days	11.5%
Completed in 15 – 21 days	00.0%
Completed in 22-28 days	10.4%
Completed in more than 28 days	58.3%
Average number of days for case completion	31.22

Comment Section

Lab experiences carryover of samples and back log of cases that create overages in samples examined for the year.

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Westchester

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2008	12	*33%	0

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
36	44	15	34%
Samples Received	Samples Examined	Samples Positive	% of Positive Samples
114	97	26	27%

Analytical method(s) utilized: GC/MS 56 Other 0

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffnic
27%	19%	38%	0%	0%
De-Arornatized Distillates	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
8%	0%	0%	8%	

CASE TURN AROUND TIME

Completed in 7 days	00.0%
Completed in 8-14 days	31.4%
Completed in 15 – 21 days	00.0%
Completed in 22-28 days	02.3%
Completed in more than 28 days	102.3%
Average number of days for case completion	25.98

Comment Section

*This reports total work hours in percentage of hours based on laboratory policy. The lab has been processing a back log of cases. This back log has caused the data to be out of balance in some categories. Example: Sample examined does not match analytical method because back log cases were concentrated and will run upon request.

The New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control by executive order, Section 156-1-19 shall advise and assist in coordination and strengthening the activities, programs and services, rules and regulations of these departments and agencies of the state, which have functions, powers and duties relating to arson suppression, detection, investigation and prosecution and to the end of providing more effective services to the public and strengthening governmental programs relating to such matters.

The Office of Fire Prevention and Control is committed to sustaining arson evidence analysis and testing through the Arson laboratory Improvement Program and working with the DCJS and NYCLAC to improve such services aimed at combating the crime of arson.

David A. Patterson
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Secretary of State



Floyd A. Madison
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Rich Barlette
Arson Bureau
Chief

Randi Shadic
Arson Bureau
Deputy Chief