

**New York State
Department of State
Office of Fire Prevention and Control
Arson Bureau**

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Arson Laboratory Improvement Program [ALIP] - 2007 Report

12 Month Analysis

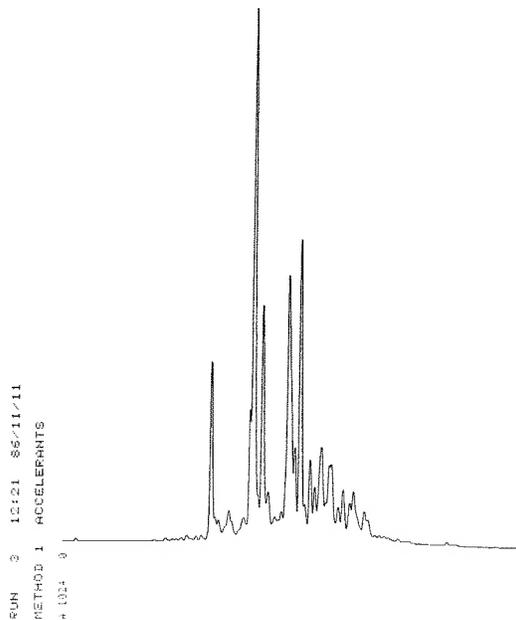


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Section 1 - INTRODUCTION

Arson is a crime if left unchecked, inflicts havoc, terrorizes communities, and creates financial burden 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 29 years, the ALIP has helped strengthen 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, three labs are not processing fire debris. Suffolk and Westchester laboratories are working toward certifications that will bring them back on line, while Nassau's plan is indefinite. Currently,

fire debris samples collected from fire investigation units in Nassau County are being processed by the New York State Police Forensic Laboratory. This years report reflects data from six labs reporting 12 months of data and one reporting 3 months of data as reflected in the



following summary report pages. 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 2007 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, the 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 development of a standardized label specific to fire debris evidence samples. This label contains critical information that will assist the laboratory in identifying the nature of the debris which has been submitted for analysis. The NYS OFPC Arson Bureau is currently utilizing these labels to conduct a pilot review of

FIRE DEBRIS EVIDENCE ~ ID#

Agency: _____ Case# _____

Investigator: _____ Phone: () - _____

Incident Date: ___/___/___ Time _____ Collected: ___/___/___ Time _____

Collected By: _____ Agency: _____

Location Found: _____

Type of Sample: Suspect Sample [] Comparison Sample []

Detected by: Canine [] Mechanical Sniffer [] Human Nose []

Description: Glass [] Soil [] Liquid [] Paper [] Wood []
Carpet [] Cloth [] Plastic [] General Fire Debris Type Unknown []

Comment/Other _____

Agency Surrendered To: _____ Date/Time _____

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL - ARSON BUREAU

their effectiveness. Once the pilot is completed, the Office of Fire Prevention & Control and the Division of Criminal Justice Services will pursue a project to make the labels available for use by statewide fire investigation agencies as the agency deems appropriate.

Arson Laboratory Improvement Project

Participating Laboratories

2007

<p>Erie County Dept. of Central Police Services Forensic Laboratory Public Safety Campus Building 45 Elm Street Buffalo NY 14203 Mike Dujanovich, 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. James 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 Fred Drummond, Director</p>

Section 2 – Statistical Summaries

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

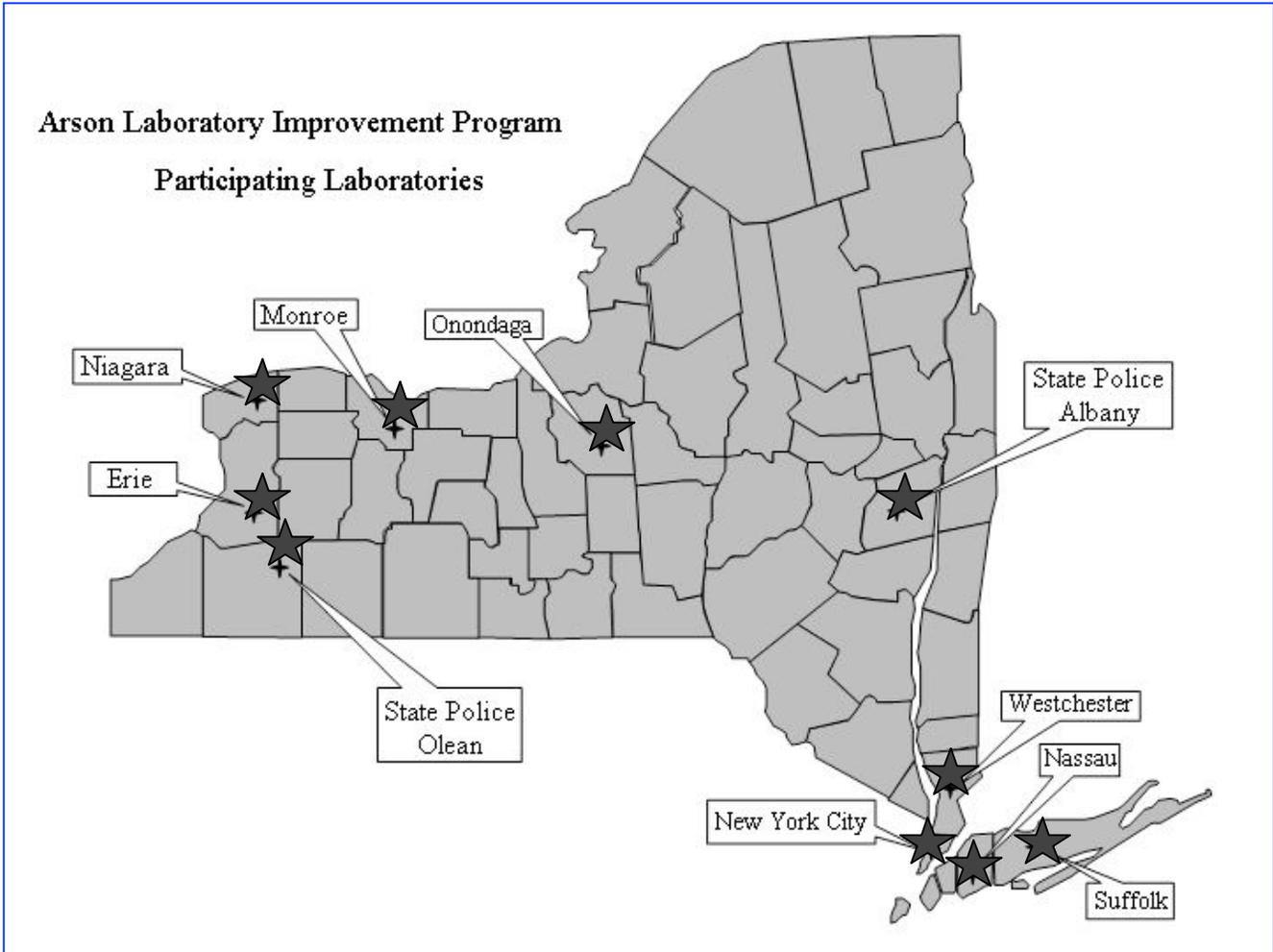
Statewide Annual Averages 2003 - 2007

Year	Total Fire Debris Cases Examined	Percent Cases Positive for Ignitable Liquids	Total Fire Debris Samples Examined	Percent of Samples Positive for Ignitable Liquids
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%
2003	1132	56.5%	2450	48.5%
5 Yr Totals	4677	57.4%	10591	47.5%

2007 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	83	103	45%	401	31%
Western Region - Olean	12	97	103	59%	331	63%
City Labs						
New York City	12	158	127	67%	294	61%
Counties						
Erie	12	199	222	53%	567	48%
Monroe	12	146	151	42%	380	37%
Nassau	0	0	0	0	0	0
Niagara	12	34	34	68%	80	50%
Onondaga	12	25	25	68%	73	40%
Suffolk	3	25	42	74%	123	52%
Westchester	0	0	0	0	0	0

Section 3 – INDIVIDUAL LABORATORY DATA



State Police Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Headquarters, Albany

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2007	12	310	2

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
83	103	46	45%
Samples Received	Samples Examined	Samples Positive	% of Positive Samples
293	401	124	31%

Analytical method(s) utilized: GC/MS 401 Other 0

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffnic
85%	8%	0%	0%	0%
De-Arornatized Distillates	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
0%	1%	0%	6%	

CASE TURN AROUND TIME

Completed in 7 days	14.6%
Completed in 8-14 days	54.4%
Completed in 15 – 21 days	89.3%
Completed in 22-28 days	15.5%
Completed in more than 28 days	00.0%
Average number of days for case completion	20.03

Comment Section

State Police Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Western Regional, Olean

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2007	12	641	0

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
97	103	61	59%
Samples Received	Samples Examined	Samples Positive	% of Positive Samples
338	331	207	63%

Analytical method(s) utilized: GC/MS 320 Other 28

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffnic
39%	6%	0%	6%	0%
De-Arornatized Distillates	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
0%	0%	1%	24%	

CASE TURN AROUND TIME

Completed in 7 days	09.7%
Completed in 8-14 days	62.1%
Completed in 15 – 21 days	13.6%
Completed in 22-28 days	05.8%
Completed in more than 28 days	00.0%
Average number of days for case completion	12.90

Comment Section

City Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: New York City

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2007	12	89%	0

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
158	127	85	67%
Samples Received	Samples Examined	Samples Positive	% of Positive Samples
334	294	180	61%

Analytical method(s) utilized: GC/MS 320 Other 28

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffnic
62%	21%	0%	0%	0%
De-Arornatized Distillates	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
0%	0%	6%	4%	

CASE TURN AROUND TIME

Completed in 7 days	20.5%
Completed in 8-14 days	15.7%
Completed in 15 – 21 days	05.5%
Completed in 22-28 days	07.9%
Completed in more than 28 days	50.0%
Average number of days for case completion	20.93

Comment Section

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Erie

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2007	12	1686	0

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
199	222	117	53%
Samples Received	Samples Examined	Samples Positive	% of Positive Samples
477	567	270	48%

Analytical method(s) utilized: GC/MS 567 Other 0

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffnic
38%	30%	1%	3%	0%
De-Arornatized Distillates	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
0%	3%	2%	1%	

CASE TURN AROUND TIME

Completed in 7 days	17.1%
Completed in 8-14 days	42.8%
Completed in 15 – 21 days	14.9%
Completed in 22-28 days	04.5%
Completed in more than 28 days	20.7%
Average number of days for case completion	15.45

Comment Section

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Monroe

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2007	12	Not Reported	0

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
146	151	63	42%
Samples Received	Samples Examined	Samples Positive	% of Positive Samples
354	380	142	37%

Analytical method(s) utilized: GC/MS 380 Other 0

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffnic
47%	49%	0%	2%	0%
De-Arornatized Distillates	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
0%	0%	0%	2%	

CASE TURN AROUND TIME

Completed in 7 days	04.6%
Completed in 8-14 days	27.8%
Completed in 15 – 21 days	25.2%
Completed in 22-28 days	18.5%
Completed in more than 28 days	23.8%
Average number of days for case completion	19.75

Comment Section

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Nassau

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2007	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
2007	12	Not Reported	0

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
34	34	23	68%
Samples Received	Samples Examined	Samples Positive	% of Positive Samples
80	80	40	50%

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
83%	10%	3%	0%	0%
De-Arornatized Distillates	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
0%	0%	0%	0%	

CASE TURN AROUND TIME

Completed in 7 days	50.0%
Completed in 8-14 days	26.5%
Completed in 15 – 21 days	02.9%
Completed in 22-28 days	20.6%
Completed in more than 28 days	0.0%
Average number of days for case completion	10.9

Comment Section

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Onondaga

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2007	12	Not Reported	0

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
25	25	17	68%
Samples Received	Samples Examined	Samples Positive	% of Positive Samples
73	73	29	40%

Analytical method(s) utilized: GC/MS 80 Other 0

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffinic
55%	21%	0%	0%	7%
De-Aromatized Distillates	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	[Hatched Area]
0%	0%	3%	3%	

CASE TURN AROUND TIME

Completed in 7 days	24.0%
Completed in 8-14 days	24.0%
Completed in 15 – 21 days	12.0%
Completed in 22-28 days	16.0%
Completed in more than 28 days	8.0%
Average number of days for case completion	14.29

Comment Section

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Suffolk

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2007	3	350	0

Cases Received	Cases Completed	Cases Positive	% of Positive Cases
25	42	31	74%
Samples Received	Samples Examined	Samples Positive	% of Positive Samples
78	123	71	52%

Analytical method(s) utilized: GC/MS 117 Other 0

% OF IGNITABLE LIQUID IDENTIFIED BY ASTM CLASSIFICATION

Gasoline All Brands	Petroleum Distillates	Isoparaffinic Products	Aromatic Products	Napthenic Paraffinic
70%	20%	3%	0%	0%
De-Arornatized Distillates	N-Alkanes	Oxygenated Solvents	Other	
0%	0%	2%	5%	

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	2.4%
Completed in more than 28 days	92.9%
Average number of days for case completion	31.38

Comment Section

Suffolk reported first quarter of data this year – Laboratory is not currently processing fire debris for ignitable liquid analysis, however anticipates returning on line during 2008.

County Laboratory Summary

Laboratory: Westchester

Reporting Year	Number of Months Reported	Total Work Hours	Yearly Testimony
2007	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. Recertification process is currently underway.

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. Further, to improve arson evidence analysis and testing at existing facilities and periodically recommend to the Governor and the Legislature methods to improve such services.

The Office of Fire Prevention and Control is committed to supporting 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. Paterson
Governor

Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez
Secretary of State



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State Fire Administrator

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Arson Bureau
Chief

Randi Shadic
Arson Bureau
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