Staffing

Deputy Chief William McGovern, Jr. / K9 Braith
Deputy Chief Bret Welch
Investigator Gregory Amyot
Investigator Richard Daus
Investigator John Fairclough / K9 Ashes
Investigator Kristi Geary / K9 Zena
Investigator Jason Green
Investigator Thomas Hetherington
Investigator Erik Holter
Investigator Michael Knowlton
Investigator Christopher Lupold / K9 Lieut
Investigator Andrew Pohl / K9 Tomek
Investigator James Ryan / K9 Shadow
Investigator Edward Stevens
Investigator Christopher Taylor

Offices

**Albany Office**
1220 Washington Avenue
Building 7A - 2nd Floor
Albany, NY 12226

**Syracuse Office**
333 E. Washington Street - Suite 513
Syracuse, NY 13202

**Academy of Fire Science**
600 College Avenue
Montour Falls, NY 14865

**Binghamton Office**
44 Hawley Street
Binghamton, NY 13902

Fire Investigation Training and Technical Assistance Program
The Arson Staff deliver advanced programs of instruction and education to the fire investigation community. Programs are presented at the State Fire Academy in Montour Falls by Arson Staff supplemented by subject matter specialists including, electrical engineers, district attorneys, veterinarians. Additional programs are delivered regionally across the state. A listing and detailed description of these courses can be found in the OFPC training catalog or on its website at http://www.dhsses.ny.gov/ofpc/training/. Arson Staff also deliver special training programs as part of the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services [DCJS] training curriculum. These programs relative to arson investigation are directed to entry level patrol officers, supervisors and crime scene evidence technicians.

Academy Courses -  
Canine Accelerant Detection  
Canine Accelerant Detection Recertification  
Electrical Fire Cause Determination I & II  
Introduction to Fire Investigation  
Fire Scene Evidence Collection  
Fire Investigation  
Fire/Arson Investigation Seminar  
Interviewing Techniques for the Fire Investigator  
Fire Investigative Photography  
Vehicle Fire Investigation  
Youth Firesetter Symposium

Regional Course Delivery -  
Introduction to Fire Investigation

Regional Lecture Series -  
DCJS Evidence Technician Course  
DCJS Law Enforcement Supervisors  
SUNY Public Safety Officer Training  
Vehicle Arson Awareness  
Law Enforcement Academies  
Prosecutor’s Seminar

Regional Delivery of NFA Courses-  
Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention

Special Services / Programs 
Arson Staff supported investigative services:  
• Accelerant detection canine searches  
• Insurance claim searches where fraud is a motive  
• Burn injury information for suspect identification  
• NYS Corporations information checks

Support Programs:  
• NYS fire investigator certification program  
• County arson control plan review  
• Arson criminal history checks for volunteer firefighter applicants in designated counties  
• NYS Crime Laboratory Advisory Committee / Arson Technical Working Group

Fire / Arson Investigation Training 

Fire Investigation Technical Assistance 
The Fire Investigation Technical Assistance (FITA) program provides emergency response to the fire service, law enforcement, and prosecutors on a 24 hour basis. This program provides the requesting agency with highly trained, experienced, and certified personnel to assist in conducting fire investigations.

All Investigators are nationally accredited fire investigators, also trained and certified to New York State standards as; Fire Investigators, Peace Officers, and Crime Scene Evidence Specialists.

Every Investigator is equipped with a cache of equipment. This equipment includes basic hand tools, shovels, rakes, brooms, sifters, and saws, as well as documentation equipment including digital photographic and video cameras and the fundamental equipment necessary for the collection of fire debris evidence.

In instances of a major incident, staff have a response vehicle (MERV) that can be deployed with additional tools to include, a large generator and tripod lighting, portable shelters, scene processing tools, power tools and a portable x-ray unit. The unit also has a small excavator to assist with debris removal.

Regional Networking 
As a means to keep abreast of the issues and provide information to our client group staff utilize a regional networking program. Investigators interact with fire investigation teams, fire coordinators, and burn treatment facilities to address their concerns and issues.