



Arson Control Forum

Topic	Serial Arson Investigation – 10 Stage System
Organisation	London Fire Brigade and partners
Date	2007 - Ongoing

Issue

To assist the London Fire Brigade and Metropolitan Police Service address the serial arson problems in London, a logical and practical 'Ten Stage System to Serial Arson Investigations' has been developed. It has been designed to help the joint agency investigation teams monitor case progress and is used in conjunction with an 'Arson Case Log Book'.

Actions Taken

The development of a Ten stage system which has been viewed, assessed and implemented within the Metropolitan Police Service. An Arson Case Log Book has also been produced which is maintained by the Arson Task Force Practitioner (ATFP) and monitored by a LFB Registered Forensic Practitioner.

Summary of Benefits Realised

Increased integration between all involved agencies. This has led to a improved working partnership between the organisations and an improvement in their arson detection and prosecution rates.

Contact

If you require any further details about the points raised in this case study, please contact:

Name Peter Mansi
Title Station Manager
Organisation London Fire Brigade

Email: Peter.mansi@london-fire.gov.uk

Once each stage has been completed proceed to the next stage.

Stage One – Identify the geographical area involved and time frame to be covered

Once the ATFP is aware of a potential arson pattern a brief analysis of available information is made to identify the potential geographical area involved. A time frame will then be established for when the series appears to start up to the specific incident in question.

Stage Two – Obtain and select appropriate IRIS, MOBIS and RFL data

All LFB Incident Recording Information System database fire data will be obtained and analysed. All potential incidents including malicious phone calls are identified and analysed. LFB MOBIS and Rea Fire Library reports are analysed to obtain additional data.

Stage Three – Obtain and select CRIS and other Met Intelligence Bureau data

The ATFP now works from the ATF/ Met Police Force 'Partnership Desk'. All available LFB data will be shared with the MPS in accordance with the MoU.

Stage Four – Plot all data on map

All data is plotted on to a geographical map as individual incidents, colour coded to show which agency attended (LFB only – red, MPS – blue, both – green).

Stage Five –Location visits

The ATFP visits all incident locations with the LFB and MPS Borough Arson Liaison Officers (BALO) to make sketches, take photographs and attempt to liaise with local residents to obtain anecdotal evidence. All information is recorded in the Arson Case Log Book.

Stage Six – Identify telephone numbers

In partnership with intelligence officers from the MPS, Scotland Yard Control and LFB Central Mobilising Control. Telephone numbers will be analysed, especially 1st call numbers, to identify possible repeat callers or unusual patterns.

Stage Seven – Case Conference(s)

Case conference(s) (external and internal) will be held to discuss the information.

Stage Eight – Develop/Adjust an action plan

An action plan including timeframes, milestones and individual responsibilities will be developed and agreed by all parties.

Stage Nine – Assess Action Plan

The ATFP monitors the agreed action plan and circulates findings to all interested parties, where appropriate.

Stage Ten – Close case or revert to stage eight

Another case conference is held at an appropriate date to assess the action plan and decide if the case is to be suspended/or closed. If the case is still ongoing revert to stage 8.