

Response to Questions on the FY 2017 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Gross

Question: How many Fairfax County fires were determined to be arson in 2013, 2014, and 2015 (realizing that 2015 investigations may still be underway?)

Response: Please see the following chart reflecting the “incendiary,” or fires set intentionally, in Fairfax County:

Intentional/Incendiary Fires in Fairfax County	
2015	51
2014	58
2013	51

The Fire and Hazardous Materials Investigations Unit is responsible for enforcing County and State laws regarding fires or explosions that occur in the County that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Are of a suspicious nature,
- Involve the loss of life,
- Cause serious injury to one or more person, and/or
- Cause damage of, or damage to, property.

Statistics of note for 2015 incendiary cases:

- 70 percent of the incendiary fires were closed with an arrest compared to the national clearance rate of 21.8 percent according to the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting for 2014
- 25 percent remain under investigation
- 5 percent are inactive (no current leads for follow-up are available) at this time