



FIRE / ARSON INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

Fire Captain Mike Macalinao

December 17, 2024



Fire / Arson Investigations Unit Established 2023

A partnership between Murrieta Fire & Murrieta Police

- Conduct thorough Fire Investigations.
- Enhance Criminal Investigations.
- Prevent Repeat Arson Incidents.
- Improve Community Safety.





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MFR

- 1 - Full-Time Lead (*grant funded*)
- 3 - Shift/Eng Investigators *as of 2024*
- 3 - New Shift Investigators 2025-2026
- Total of 2 Investigators per Shift (6)

MPD

- Lt. Durrant
- Sgt. Therien
- Detective Leitch

Established Relationships

RCATF - Riverside County Arson Task Force

ATF – Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms

DA – District Attorney's Office





Fire / Arson Investigations Unit Levels of Training

- Origin & Cause Investigator – 208 Hours
- Arson Investigator – 104 Hours
 - Approx. 8 Weeks of Total Training

CALIFORNIA
STATE FIRE



TRAINING



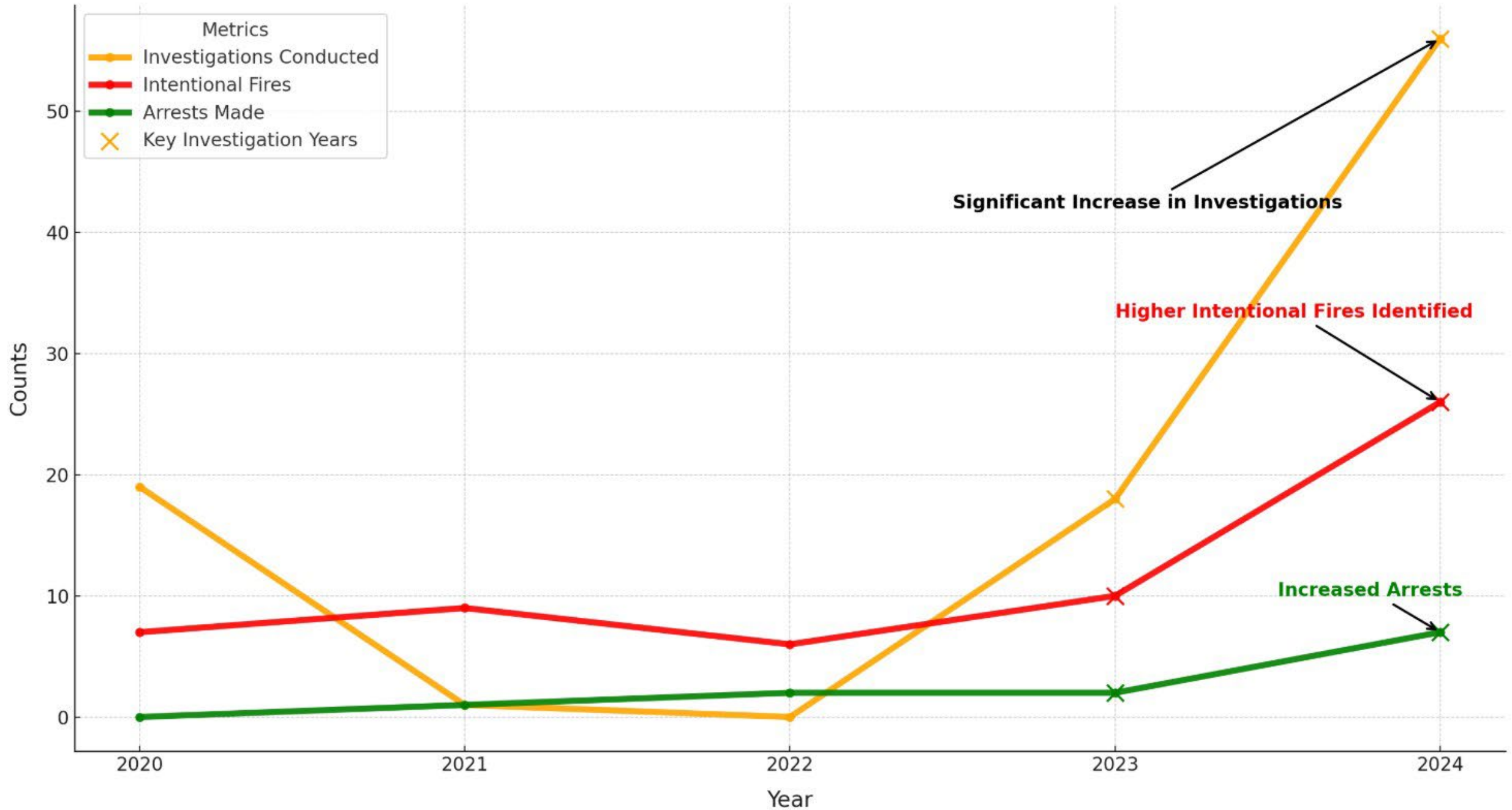
National Arson Statistics

- 33,395 reported arson cases in the U.S. (2019)
 - 42.2% involved structures
 - 22.6% involved mobile property
 - 35.2% involved other property types
- Only 26.6% of cases resolved (2023)
 - Over 70% of cases remain unresolved
 - Need for improved resources and investigative strategies



(Sources: FBI, California DOJ, Statista)

Impact of Investigations on Intentional Fires and Arrests (2020-2024)





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QUESTIONS