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Technical Bulletins: Small Grants Available from U.S. Fire Administration for Arson Investigation

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Municipal Technical Advisory Service

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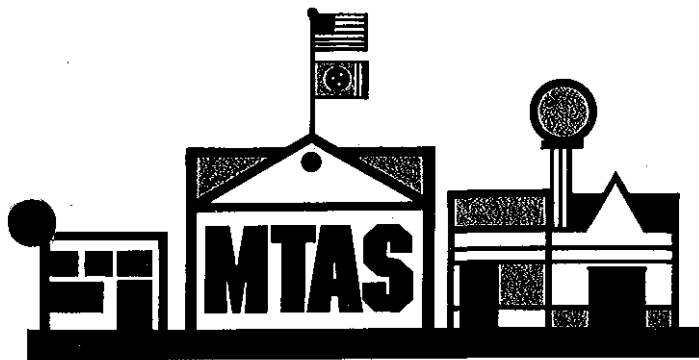
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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
IN COOPERATION WITH THE TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
Authorization Number E14-1050-00-001-83

July 23, 1982

SMALL GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM U. S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION FOR ARSON INVESTIGATION

By Wm. Gary Head, MTAS Management Consultant

The U. S. Fire Administration, which is under the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has been offering seed money to combat the crime of arson.

A major emphasis has been on the Arson Information Management Computer System (AIMS). The cities of Knoxville, TN, and Rochester, NY, were selected to demonstrate the program.

An Anti-Arson Resource and Action Guide was developed by Public Technology, Inc., through a grant from Aetna Life & Casualty Company. Information on this guide can be obtained by contacting the MTAS library or:

Ms. Ellen J. Albright, Arson Program Director
Public Technology, Inc.
1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 626-2400

The Knoxville experience offers a model for other cities (or combination of smaller cities) to pursue. The methodology is fairly simple:

1. Establish a task force.
2. Organize the task force into sub-committees.
3. Staff the task force with trained fire/police personnel.
4. Install AIMS to track fires and locate patterns.
5. Follow through with prosecution, taxation, and building codes.

The establishment of the program in Knoxville has resulted in a 300 per cent increase in arrests for the crime of arson, and a 10 per cent decrease in suspected arson cases. For information on Knoxville's experience, contact:

Dr. David J. Icové, Coordinator
Knoxville Arson Task Force
Department of Public Safety
800 East Church Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37915
Phone: (615) 521-1200, Ext. 339

(over)

Cities interested in pursuing the grant money for fire departments may contact:

U. S. Fire Administration
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, DC 20472

It should be emphasized, once again, that the program can work as well for a group of smaller cities as for a large city.

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