

Division of Investigative & Forensic Services

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES



STANDARDS

PROFESSIONALISM

ETHICAL BEHAVIOR

PURSUIT OF FRAUD AND ABUSE



Letter from Jimmy Patronis, Chief Financial Officer

Letter From Simon Blank, DIFS Director

Office of the Director

Bureau of Fire, Arson, & Explosives Investigations

Northwest Region

Northeast Region

North Central Region

South Central Region

South Region

Bureau of Insurance Fraud

North Region

North Central Region

West Central Region

South Central Region

South Region

Property & Casualty Region

Office of Fiscal Integrity

Workers' Compensation Bureau

Bureau of Forensic Services

BFS Services: Chemical Analysis

BFS Services: Imaging

Operational Support Services

Accelerant & Explosives K-9 Unit

Awards and Recognition

DFS Policy on Fraud Reporting Statute

Statistics

LETTER FROM CFO Jimmy Patronis

Dear friends,

Serving as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Florida's Department of Financial Services, I get to make a difference in the lives of Floridians every single day by fighting financial fraud, erasing abuse and waste in government, reducing government spending and, promoting accountability. In this role, I have the unique opportunity of overseeing the operations of the Division of Insurance Fraud, and as such, I'm able to make these priorities a reality.

In this year's annual report, I'm excited to tell you about the Division of Investigative & Forensic Services' achievements, share a few unique cases, and also share how the detectives and prosecutors are working together to investigate, prosecute and hold accountable those who would commit crimes and take advantage of Florida's citizens and businesses.

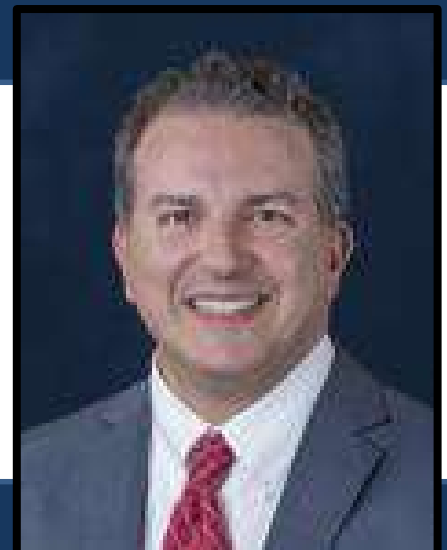
In fact, it is through valued partnerships with prosecutors, the insurance industry, local citizens willing to report fraud and other law enforcement in the community, that we are able to take down dishonest fraudsters who scheme to defraud all of us.

With our anti-fraud reward program we're financially able to give back to those who assist our efforts. To date, the Department has awarded almost \$342,000 to more than 50 citizens who provided us with key information leading directly to arrests and convictions. I encourage you to take a moment to read about some of our achievements in the following pages.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Patronis
Chief Financial Officer
State of Florida



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



**Director
Simon Blank**



**Lieutenant Colonel
Evangelina Brooks**



Bureau of Fire, Arson & Explosives Investigations



Chief
Thomas Bosco

The Bureau of Fire, Arson & Explosives Investigations' core mission includes the detection, investigation, apprehension and prosecution of offenders of arson and explosive related crimes. The Bureau also works to enhance investigations and prosecutions and to deter arson and explosive related crimes through education and training.

The Bureau is under the direction of Chief Thomas Bosco and is divided into two operational districts: District I and District II. District I is comprised of two regions where District II is comprised of three regions. These five regions respond to requests for service investigative support to fire, police, citizens, and visitors of Florida.



District I
Major Matthew Legler

District I is comprised of the Northwest and Northeast regions and is under the command of Major Matthew Legler.

District II is comprised of the North Central, South Central and South regions and is under the command of Major Phillip Roman.



District II
Major Phillip Roman

The Bureau also supports the Division's Special Operations Bomb Squad and K-9 units.

The five regions are commanded by a law enforcement captain each. They contain 14 squads, each supervised by a lieutenant. The Bureau consists of 103 sworn officers and 14 civilian support staff members.

FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022 STATISTICS

2,586 Cases Initiated

749 Calls for Consultation

2,444 Cases Closed

147 Cases Presented for Prosecution

306 Arrests

97 Successful Prosecutions



Due to fire and arson investigations being complex, arduous and inherently dangerous in nature, the Bureau does not investigate every fire that occurs within the state of Florida. However, upon request, Bureau officers are available to respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to investigate fires and explosive-related incidents.

We are working harder than ever to ensure those responsible for arson are apprehended and prosecuted. If you have any information regarding a suspected arson, we encourage residents to report Arson Tips through the Arson Tip Hotline at 1-877-NO-ARSON (662-7766). Any information leading to a successful arrest and prosecution may be eligible for a cash reward.

DISTRICT AND REGIONAL BOUNDARIES

BUREAU OF FIRE, ARSON & EXPLOSIVES INVESTIGATIONS

NORTHWEST REGION

Pensacola Field Office
826 Creighton Road, Suite B-104
Pensacola, FL 32504
(850) 453-7803

Panama City Field Office
1022 W 23rd St, Suite 670
Hancock Center
Panama City, FL 32405

Tallahassee Field Office
2639 North Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL
(850) 413-3900

NORTHEAST REGION

Jacksonville Field Office
921 North Davis Street
Building B, Suite 280
Jacksonville, FL 32290
(904) 798-5804

Ocala Field Office
11655 NW Gainesville Rd, Bldg 8
Ocala, FL 34482
(352) 369-2801

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Daytona Field Office
500 Fentress Blvd, Suite G
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
(386) 323-0904

Orlando Field Office
400 West Robinson Street, Suite N402
Orlando, FL 32801
(407) 316-4790

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Tampa Field Office
8600 Hidden River Pkwy, Suite 200
Tampa, FL 33637

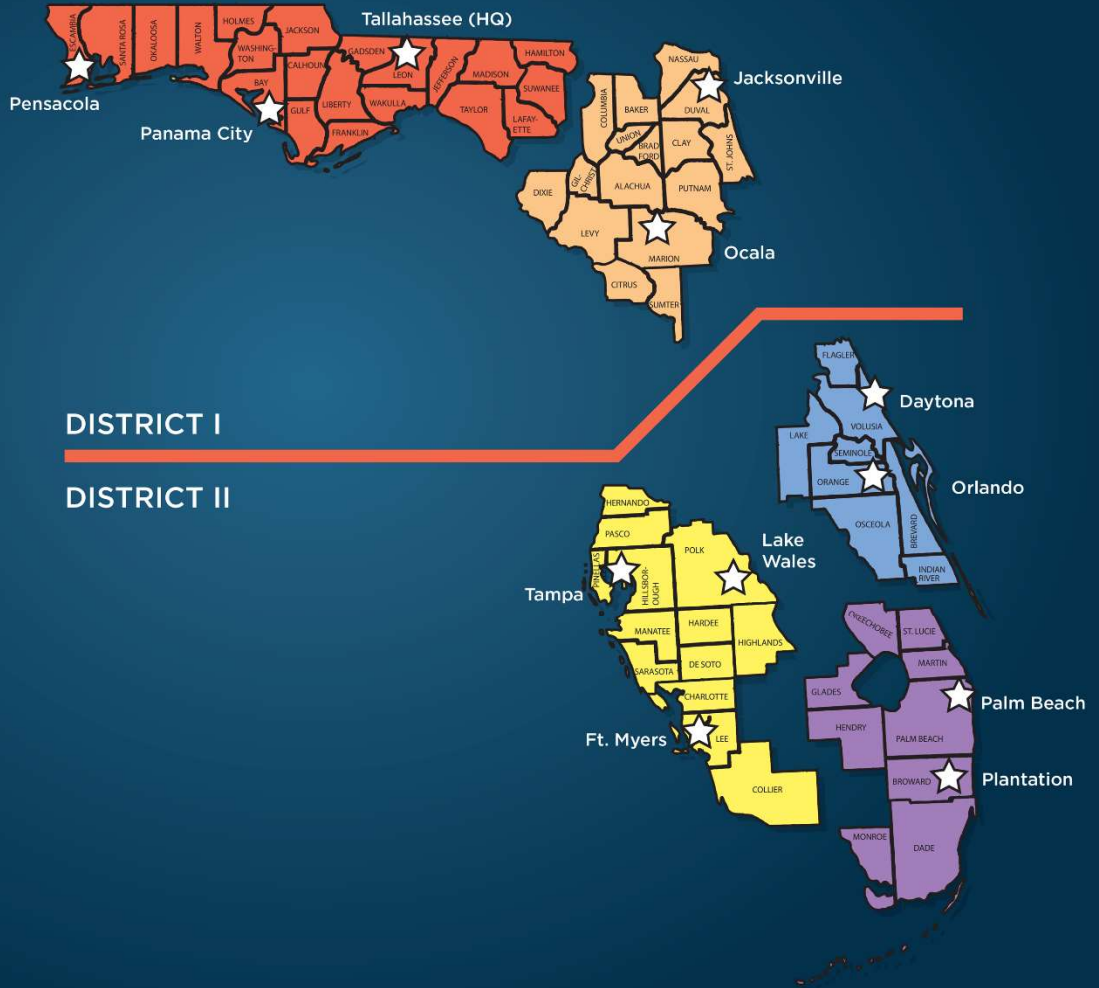
Lake Wales Field Office
1750 Longleaf Blvd, Suite 7
Lake Wales, FL 33859
(863) 679-4180

Ft. Myers Field Office
4700 Terminal Drive, Suite #4
Ft. Myers, FL 33907
(239) 278-7533

SOUTH REGION

Plantation Field Office
6851 W. Sunrise Blvd Suite 1
Plantation, FL 33313
(954) 321-3704

West Palm Beach Field Office
400 N Congress Ave, Suite 230
West Palm Beach, FL 33401



NORTHWEST REGION

The Northwest Region is responsible for the enforcement of arson related crimes committed in Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Gadsden, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Suwannee, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton and Washington Counties.

The region is divided into three field offices, directed by Captain Jason Roberts and Lieutenants John Bell, Matthew Streichert and Chris Scovotto.

| Squad | Cases Opened | Cases Closed | Presentations | Arrests | Successful Prosecutions |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------|
| PENSACOLA OFFICE | 158 | 172 | 12 | 17 | 13 |
| PANAMA CITY OFFICE | 143 | 133 | 15 | 31 | 9 |
| TALLAHASSEE OFFICE | 223 | 204 | 24 | 19 | 10 |



NORTH WEST REGION Captain Jason Roberts

PENSACOLA FIELD OFFICE
Lieutenant John Bell

PANAMA CITY FIELD OFFICE
Lieutenant Matthew Streichert

TALLAHASSEE FIELD OFFICE
Lieutenant Chris Scovotto



NORTHEAST REGION

The Northeast Region is responsible for the enforcement of arson related crimes committed in Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Citrus, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Gilchrist, Levy, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Sumter and Union Counties.

The region is divided into three field offices, directed by Captain Joseph Pietrafesa and Lieutenants Jordan Craven, David Young and Thomas Pudlo.

| Squad | Cases Opened | Cases Closed | Presentations | Arrests | Successful Prosecutions |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------|
| JACKSONVILLE OFFICE #1 | 151 | 152 | 16 | 16 | 6 |
| JACKSONVILLE OFFICE #2 | 229 | 224 | 14 | 26 | 17 |
| OCALA OFFICE | 125 | 115 | 9 | 11 | 5 |



NORTH EAST REGION Captain Joseph Pietrafesa

JACKSONVILLE FIELD OFFICE
Lieutenant David Young
Lieutenant Jordan Craven

OCALA FIELD OFFICE
Lieutenant Thomas Pudlo



NORTH CENTRAL REGION

The North Central Region is responsible for the enforcement of arson related crimes committed in Brevard, Flagler, Indian River, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Volusia Counties.

The region is divided into three field offices, directed by Captain Paul Paterson and Lieutenants Nicholas Incontrera and Amelia Hitchcock.

| Squad | Cases Opened | Cases Closed | Presentations | Arrests | Successful Prosecutions |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------|
| ORLANDO OFFICE | 267 | 259 | 1 | 24 | 4 |
| DAYTONA OFFICE | 192 | 195 | 18 | 21 | 7 |



NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Captain Paul Paterson

ORLANDO FIELD OFFICE

Lieutenant Nicholas Incontrera

DAYTONA BEACH FIELD OFFICE

Lieutenant Amelia Hitchcock



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

The South Central Region is responsible for the enforcement of arson related crimes committed in Charlotte, Collier, Desoto, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Sarasota Counties.

The region is divided into three field offices, directed by Captain Cynthia Erhardt-Campina and Lieutenants Raul Vallejo, Stacy McIntyre and Joseph Minervini.

| Squad | Cases Opened | Cases Closed | Presentations | Arrests | Successful Prosecutions |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------|
| TAMPA OFFICE | 179 | 167 | 4 | 20 | 8 |
| LAKE WALES OFFICE | 236 | 213 | 19 | 25 | 9 |
| FORT MYERS OFFICE | 184 | 163 | 1 | 23 | 4 |



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION Captain Cynthia Erhardt-Campina

TAMPA FIELD OFFICE
Lieutenant Raul Vallejo

LAKE WALES FIELD OFFICE
Lieutenant Stacy McIntyre

FORT MYERS FIELD OFFICE
Lieutenant Joseph Minervini



SOUTH REGION

The South Region is responsible for the enforcement of arson related crimes committed in Broward, Dade, Glades, Hendry, Martin, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie Counties.

The region is divided into three field offices, directed by Captain Ross Holt and Lieutenants Edwin Tapanes, James Milton and Anthony Mozealous.

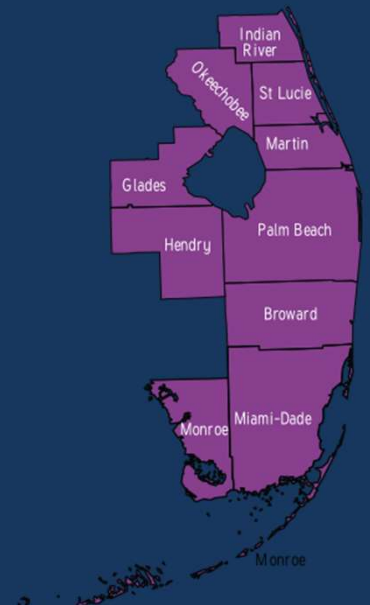
| Squad | Cases Opened | Cases Closed | Presentations | Arrests | Successful Prosecutions |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------|
| PLANTATION OFFICE FORT LAUDERDALE | 209 | 187 | 0 | 21 | 0 |
| PLANTATION OFFICE MIAMI | 133 | 110 | 8 | 35 | 1 |
| WEST PALM BEACH OFFICE | 157 | 150 | 6 | 17 | 4 |



SOUTH REGION Captain Ross Holt

PLANTATION FIELD OFFICE
Lieutenant Edwin Tapanes
Lieutenant James Milton

WEST PALM BEACH FIELD OFFICE
Lieutenant Anthony Mozealous



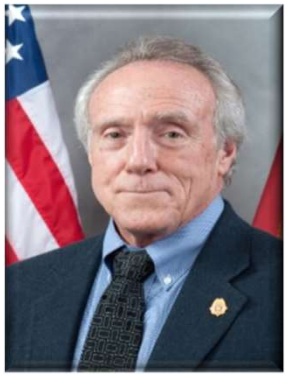
Bureau of Insurance Fraud



Chief
Darrell Wilson

The Bureau of Insurance Fraud’s core mission includes the investigation of alleged acts of insurance fraud not categorized under workers’ compensation fraud, including; licensee, healthcare, application, vehicle, homeowners, commercial, disability, arson, and life insurance fraud. Within these categories are; organized schemes to defraud the public and insurers, insolvency of insurance companies due to internal fraud, criminal activity by unauthorized entities illegally doing business in Florida, and viatical related fraud.

The Bureau is under the direction of Chief Darrell Wilson and is divided into two operational districts: District I and District II. District I is comprised of four regions where District II is comprised of two regions.



District I
Major Brian McCoy

District I is comprised of the North, North Central, Property & Casualty, and West Central regions and is under the command of Major Brian McCoy.

District II is comprised of the South Central and South regions and is under the command of Major Rafael Delgado.

The six regions are commanded by a law enforcement captain. They contain 26 squads, each supervised by a lieutenant. The Bureau consists of 128 sworn officers and 30 civilian support staff members



District II
Major Rafael Delgado

FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022 STATISTICS

17,310 Suspected Fraud Complaints

1,517 Cases Opened

1,865 Cases Closed

774 Cases for Presentation

637 Arrests

561 Successful Prosecutions

\$31,837,293.26 Restitution Requested

\$77,043,352.27 Court Ordered Restitution



DISTRICT AND REGIONAL BOUNDARIES

BUREAU OF INSURANCE FRAUD

NORTH REGION

Pensacola Field Office
826 Creighton Road, Suite B-104
Pensacola, FL 32504
(850) 453-7802

Tallahassee Field Office
2639 North Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL
(850) 413-3115

Jacksonville Field Office
921 N Davis Street, Bldg. B, Suite 149
Jacksonville, FL 32209
(904) 798-5802

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Orlando Field Office
400 West Robinson Street, Suite S-823
Hurston Building, Orlando, FL 32801
(407) 835-4402

WEST CENTRAL REGION

Tampa Field Office
8600 Hidden River Parkway, Suite 100
Tampa, FL 33637-1016
(813) 972-8602

St. Petersburg Field Office
St. Lucie Building
9800 4th Street, Suite 100
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
(727) 563-1142

Lakeland Field Office
200 North Kentucky Ave.,
Suite 230 Peterson Bldg.
Lakeland, FL 33801
(863) 316-6000

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

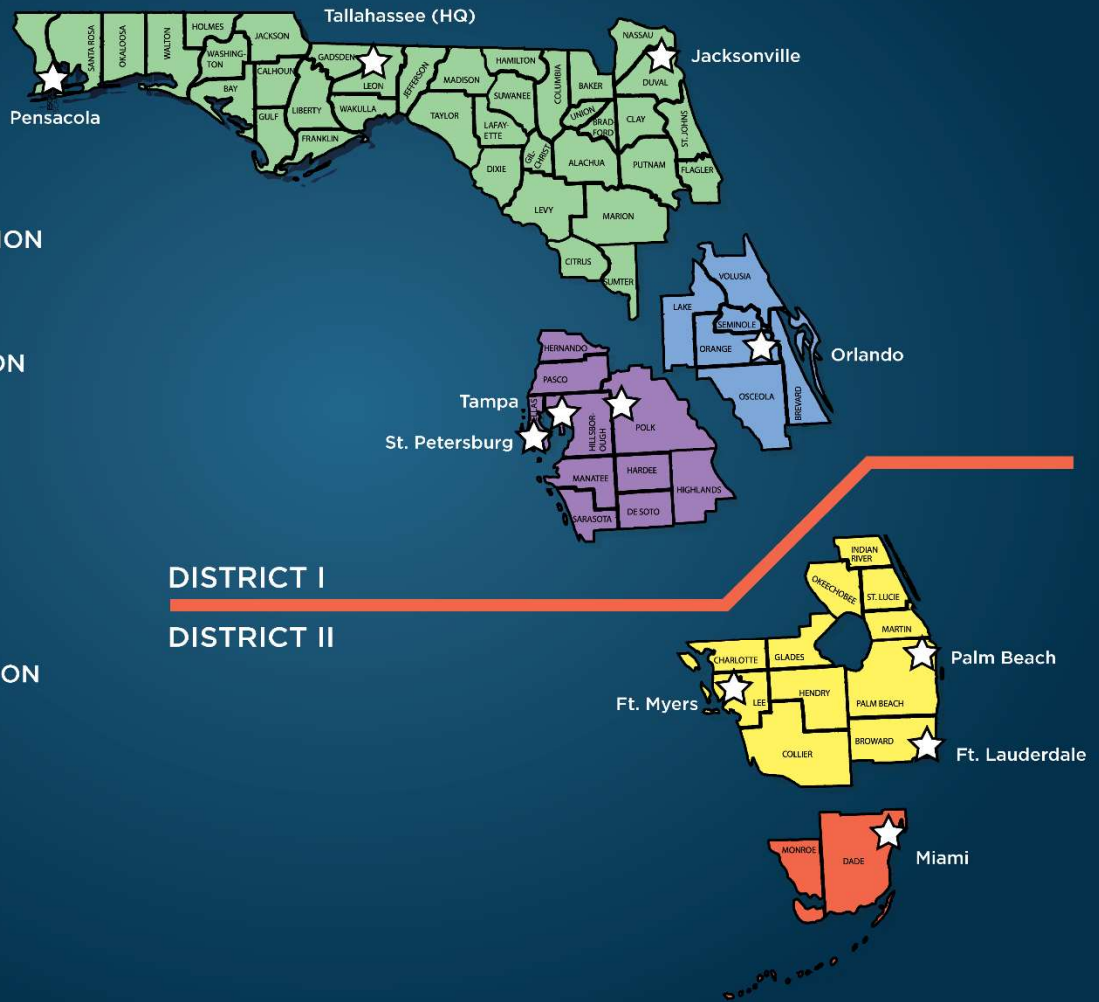
West Palm Beach Field Office
400 N Congress Avenue, Suite 250
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
(561) 837-5601

Ft. Lauderdale Field Office
1400 W Commercial Blvd, Suite 135
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309
(954) 958-5402

Ft. Myers Field Office
4700 Terminal Drive, Suite #5
Fort Myers, FL 33907
(239) 278-7527

SOUTH REGION

Miami Field Office
401 N. W. 2 Avenue, Suite N-321
Miami, FL 33128
(305) 536-0302



NORTH REGION

The North Region is responsible for the enforcement of insurance related crimes committed in Alachua, Baker, Bay, Bradford, Calhoun, Citrus, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Marion, Nassau, Okaloosa, Putnam, Santa Rosa, St. Johns, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Wakulla, Walton and Washington Counties.

The region is divided into four general fraud squads, directed by Captain Krista Gaston and Lieutenants Adam Kline, Kevin Jones, Sandra De La Cruz and Richard Barineau,.

| Squad | Referrals | Cases Opened | Cases Closed | Presentations | Arrests | Successful Prosecutions |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------|
| JACKSONVILLE SQUAD | 481 | 68 | 111 | 43 | 39 | 54 |
| JACKSONVILLE SQUAD (2) | 527 | 74 | 81 | 48 | 27 | 30 |
| PENSACOLA SQUAD | 399 | 59 | 76 | 22 | 24 | 16 |
| TALLAHASSEE SQUAD | 1,328 | 57 | 65 | 33 | 36 | 23 |



NORTH REGION
Captain Krista Gaston

PENSACOLA FIELD OFFICE
 Lieutenant Sandra De La Cruz

TALLAHASSEE FIELD OFFICE
 Lieutenant Richard Barineau

JACKSONVILLE FIELD OFFICE
 Lieutenant Adam Kline
 Lieutenant Kevin Jones



NORTH CENTRAL REGION

The North Central Region is responsible for the enforcement of insurance related crimes committed in Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Volusia Counties.

The region is divided into two auto fraud squads and one general fraud squad directed by Captain John Savino and Lieutenants Robert Jackson, Craig Weaver and Mark Johnson.

| Squad | Referrals | Cases Opened | Cases Closed | Presentations | Arrests | Successful Prosecutions |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------|
| ORLANDO GENERAL FRAUD | 255 | 55 | 67 | 31 | 27 | 22 |
| ORLANDO AUTO SQUAD (1) | 1,721 | 36 | 72 | 14 | 17 | 16 |
| ORLANDO AUTO SQUAD (2) | 172 | 40 | 90 | 19 | 20 | 14 |



NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Captain John Savino

ORLANDO FIELD OFFICE

Lieutenant Robert Jackson
 Lieutenant Craig Weaver
 Lieutenant Mark Johnson



WEST CENTRAL REGION

The West Central Region is responsible for the enforcement of insurance related crimes committed in Desoto, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota Counties.

The region is divided into an auto fraud squad and two general fraud squads directed by Captain Laquanda Green and Lieutenants Jada Roberson, Scott Gonzalez and Michael Scott.

| Squad | Referrals | Cases Opened | Cases Closed | Presentations | Arrests | Successful Prosecutions |
|----------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------|
| TAMPA SQUAD | 631 | 69 | 71 | 23 | 3 | 1 |
| TAMPA AUTO SQUAD | 719 | 65 | 88 | 31 | 24 | 29 |
| ST. PETERSBURG SQUAD | 839 | 53 | 90 | 34 | 29 | 27 |



WEST CENTRAL REGION

Captain Laquanda Green

TAMPA FIELD OFFICE

Lieutenant Jada Roberson
Lieutenant Scott Gonzalez

ST. PETERSBURG FIELD OFFICE

Lieutenant Michael Scott



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

The South Central Region is responsible for the enforcement of insurance related crimes committed in Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Indian River, Lee, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie Counties.

The region is divided into one auto fraud squad and four general fraud squads, directed by Captain Frank Briganti and Lieutenants Glen Clasen, Jonathan Lent, Kevin Lashells, Francisco Gonzalez, and Laura Tapanes Migala.

| Squad | Referrals | Cases Opened | Cases Closed | Presentations | Arrests | Successful Prosecutions |
|----------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------|
| FT. MYERS SQUAD | 872 | 109 | 131 | 28 | 29 | 18 |
| WEST PALM BEACH SQUAD (1) | 1,079 | 42 | 52 | 28 | 23 | 25 |
| WEST PALM BEACH SQUAD (2) | 608 | 23 | 43 | 18 | 17 | 4 |
| FORT LAUDERDALE SQUAD | 660 | 9 | 40 | 5 | 6 | 14 |
| FORT LAUDERDALE AUTO SQUAD | 896 | 28 | 44 | 10 | 10 | 8 |



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Captain Frank Briganti

FT. MYERS FIELD OFFICE
Lieutenant Glen Clasen

WEST PALM BEACH FIELD OFFICE
Lieutenant Kevin Lashells
Lieutenant Jonathan Lent

FT. LAUDERDALE FIELD OFFICE
Lieutenant Francisco Gonzalez
Lieutenant Laura Tapanes Migala



SOUTH REGION

The South Region is responsible for the enforcement of insurance related crimes committed in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

The region is divided into two auto fraud squads and two general fraud squads, directed Captain Erik Cruz and Lieutenants Oscar Sigler, Jonathan Patterson, Stanley Jean-Felix, and Thomas Fernandez.

| Squad | Referrals | Cases Opened | Cases Closed | Presentations | Arrests | Successful Prosecutions |
|----------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------|
| MIAMI AUTO SQUAD | 312 | 38 | 40 | 48 | 46 | 27 |
| MIAMI SQUAD (2) | 48 | 15 | 35 | 5 | 8 | 4 |
| MIAMI SQUAD (3) | 431 | 21 | 30 | 9 | 11 | 13 |
| MIAMI AUTO SQUAD (4) | 2,724 | 46 | 66 | 26 | 31 | 0 |



SOUTH REGION

Captain Erik Cruz

MIAMI FIELD OFFICE

- Lieutenant Oscar Sigler
- Lieutenant Jonathan Patterson
- Lieutenant Stanley Jean-Felix
- Lieutenant Thomas Fernandez



PROPERTY & CASUALTY REGION

The Property and Casualty Region is divided into two squads directed Captain Laquanda Green and Lieutenants Phillip Henry and Erik Anderson.

The Tampa Squad is responsible for the enforcement of insurance related crimes committed in Desoto, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota Counties.

The Orlando Squad is responsible for the enforcement of insurance related crimes committed in Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Volusia Counties.

| Squad | Referrals | Cases Opened | Cases Closed | Presentations | Arrests | Successful Prosecutions |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------|
| TAMPA P & C | 726 | 144 | 76 | 53 | 32 | 37 |
| ORLANDO P & C | 862 | 93 | 36 | 50 | 38 | 24 |



PROPERTY & CASUALTY REGION

Captain Laquanda Green

TAMPA FIELD OFFICE
Lieutenant Phillip Henry

ORLANDO FIELD OFFICE
Lieutenant Erik Anderson



OFFICE OF FISCAL INTEGRITY

The Office of Fiscal Integrity’s (OFI) mission is to detect and investigate the misappropriation or misuse of state assets to safeguard the State of Florida and its taxpayers. When tax payer funds are misused, it’s not only illegal but it hurts the state’s ability to provide services taxpayers pay for and need. State employees, contracted employees and vendors are entrusted to use state tax payer funds for the good of Floridians. Reporting theft and fraud ensures Floridians receive the most from their tax dollars and help them have confidence in their state government.

OFI works to ensure the proper use of taxpayer funds by investigating allegations of:

- State contract and grant fraud
- Unclaimed Property fraud
- Theft of state property
- Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) fraud
- State travel reimbursement, credit card and payroll fraud
- Fraud through counterfeit warrants and fraudulent debits to state treasury accounts

| | Referrals | Cases Opened | Cases Closed | Presentations | Arrests | Successful Prosecutions |
|---|-----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------|
| OFFICE OF FISCAL INTEGRITY TOTAL | 43 | 24 | 25 | 4 | 1 | 1 |



OFFICE OF FISCAL INTEGRITY
Lieutenant Charles Wade

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BUREAU



Chief
Chris Welch

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation Fraud investigates suspected criminal violations of Florida Workers' Compensation laws. Workers' compensation insurance is a significant expense for Florida businesses and, similarly to other forms of insurance coverage, fraud continues to drive elevated premium costs.

Under the direction of Chief Chris Welch, the Bureau is supervised by Captain Ruthell Harris and is comprised of twenty-one detectives, two intelligence analysts, and four supervisors with squads located in Miami, West Palm Beach, Orlando, and Tampa. In addition to these investigative resources, the Bureau utilizes dedicated prosecutors located in Orange, Hillsborough, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties. These resources allow investigators to obtain timely arrest warrants and ensure a more cohesive process in the prosecution of individuals charged with violating the workers' compensation fraud statutes and related criminal acts.

The Bureau has continued to prioritize investigative resources in the areas of:

- employee/claimant fraud;
- premium fraud; and
- joint law enforcement operations targeting construction personnel working without appropriate coverage.



Captain
Ruthell Harris

| Squad | Referrals | Cases Opened | Cases Closed | Presentations | Arrests | Successful Prosecutions |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------|
| TAMPA | 302 | 115 | 137 | 75 | 46 | 49 |
| ORLANDO | 150 | 56 | 88 | 27 | 18 | 17 |
| WEST PALM BEACH | 200 | 118 | 139 | 37 | 37 | 27 |
| MIAMI | 131 | 58 | 63 | 53 | 37 | 30 |

TAMPA

Lieutenant Doreen Rivera

WEST PALM BEACH

Lieutenant Stacey Spirn

ORLANDO

Lieutenant Patrick Ducheine

MIAMI

Lieutenant Gina Narcisse

BUREAU OF FORENSIC SERVICES



Chief
Carl Chasteen

The Bureau of Forensic Services' mission is to provide the highest quality of relevant and reliable forensic services, while maintaining the most efficient fiscal impact possible. Public agencies, the courts, and the people demand that forensic laboratories provide quality analyses that can be relied on to assist with investigations. The Bureau was accredited in 2020 through the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA). The accrediting body accredits to the International Organization for Standardization requirements for testing and calibration laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025:2017) as well as the organization's separate requirements. Florida is one of only two States in the United States (Florida and Ohio) to have their own dedicated forensic laboratory specializing in the analysis of evidence from fires and explosions.

BFS SERVICES CHEMICAL ANALYSES



The primary work of the Bureau is the analysis of evidence collected within a fire scene to determine the presence and identity of ignitable liquids. The Bureau can also analyze evidence collected from explosions, incendiary events, and situations where a potentially hazardous chemical may be found. In 2020 there were none of these types of submissions.

Evidence from fire and explosions compared to other forensic evidence analysis disciplines is regarded as one of the most highly difficult forensic evidence types to examine and interpret. Our methods are attempting to extract and identify a post-burn or post-explosion mixture of chemical residues from a background substrate after it has burned or has been affected by an explosion.

The background substrate often contains a mixture of many of the same compounds as are found in the ignitable liquids or other chemical residues of interest. The difficulty lies in determining what is extraneous (or added by the criminal) and what is inherent to the substrate.

Our analysts must have the correct combination of skill equipment, and knowledge to be able to characterize ignitable liquids or explosive residues. They exercise extreme caution in making final determinations. If the data is insufficient, the analyst will report the sample as negative.

BFS Performs a technical review of 100% of all samples. This means that a second equally trained analyst experienced in the same discipline performs the reviews.

Fire debris analysis is conducted by the Bureau's three Crime Laboratory Analysts, DeeAnn Turner, PhD, Samuel Blittman, BS. and Amy Pearson, BS.

Staff have also attended additional trainings from one or more of the following: The National Center for Forensic Science, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the American Academy of Forensic Science.

BFS SERVICES IMAGING

The Bureau of Forensic Services’ imaging section has three primary duties.

First, it is the central archive of digital images of crime scene investigations conducted by the Division’s Bureau of Fire, Arson and Explosives Investigations (BFAEI). The Bureau stores images collected since 1992 when it was the film processing laboratory for BFAEI. When digital cameras were first issued to BFAEI in 1998, the Bureau transitioned into working with and archiving digital images. The Bureau of Forensic Services can also scan conventionally developed photographs into a digital format for archival and processing purposes.

Second, the Bureau is often requested to provide copies of images or laboratory case files as part of a public records request or subpoena. These may be used to assist with additional investigations or in the presentation of evidence at trial.

Third, the Bureau operates a section where forensic video processing is performed. As video surveillance and recordings have become commonplace, the occasions where video has captured some aspect of a crime has also increased. These videos are often of poor quality or are presented in a confusing multi-camera or multiplexed format. The Bureau can de-multiplex, separate cameras, filter, stabilize, and clean videos so that investigators can review them to determine if information present has value in concluding their investigation.



| Fire Investigation and Quality Assurance Samples Initiated for Analysis | Case Average Completion Time | Explosives/Clandestine Sample Analyses | Photos Cases Processed for Storage | Special Requests and Videos processed |
|---|------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 4,542 | 4.62 Days | 0 | 1,913 | 21 |

Operational Support Services Staff



MAJOR BURT HIMMER
OFFICE OF OPERATIONAL
SUPPORT SERVICES



CAPTAIN BILL BIERBAUM
OFFICE OF
PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS



CAPTAIN KARL MORGAN
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



SAVANNAH MALPHURS
OFFICE OF
ADMINISTRATION



LT CHAD LAWNSDAIL
QUARTERMASTER/FLEET



LT MICHELE YOWN
TRAINING



MISSY BRADLEY
DATA PROCESSING
MANAGER



KIM WACHTER
ACCREDITATION AND
PUBLIC RECORDS

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

The Operational Support Services (OSS) section of the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services encompasses all support functions, both law enforcement and non-law enforcement related, for the entire Division. OSS resides within the Office of the Director, and is comprised of the following offices:

Office of Professional Development - The Office of Professional Development consist of the Reserve Program, Training, Quartermaster, and Fleet Management Sections. Each of these sections provide an essential service to support the overall mission of the Division and Department.

The Training Section is responsible for the development, maintenance, and implementation of advance, specialized, and continuing education programs within the Division. This Section provides the following specialized courses within Fire and Fraud Investigations:

- Legal for Fraud Investigations
- Workers' Compensation Fraud Investigations
- Legal for Fire Investigations
- Post Blast Investigations
- Private Fire Protection Systems
- Basic Fraud Investigations
- Latent Investigations for Fire Investigators
- Arson Investigations
- Financial Crimes Investigations
- Building Construction for the Fire Service
- Origin and Cause Investigations

In addition, the Training Section provides advance, continuing education, and professional development courses for law enforcement officers within the areas of:

- Firearms
- Defensive Tactics
- Defensive Driving
- First Aid and CPR
- Line Supervision
- Middle Management
- Background Investigations
- Active Shooter Response
- New Employee Orientations

During the fiscal year 2021 / 2022, the Training Section provided 100 professional development courses. Of these courses, the Training Section provided a service to 1,044 students, and delivered over 17,147 hours of training.

The Quartermaster Section is responsible for the purchasing/procurement, issuance, maintenance, inventory control, and evaluation of all issued equipment. The Section manages and supports the Division's participation in the SLERS (State Law Enforcement Radio System) program. In addition, this Section provides and monitor the needed health safety equipment for the Division's investigators.

The Fleet Management Section is responsible for the purchasing/procurement. Issuance, maintenance approval/scheduling, inventory control, and related law enforcement equipment needed for vehicles.

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Office of Professional Standards - The Office of Professional Standards is responsible for the recruitment, applicant processing, promotional processing, background investigations, management inquiries, Public Records, law enforcement accreditation, staff inspections, records management, and investigative aids.

During the fiscal year 2021 / 2022, the Office of Professional Standards screened over 120 applicants for sworn and non-sworn positions throughout the Division. In addition, the Office completed over 55 background investigations in a continued effort to fill positions within the Division.

Office of Information Technology - The Office of Information Technology is responsible for the procurement, evaluation, inventory control, and management of the IT infrastructure of the Division. This section provides IT solutions and services required to meet the Division's technology needs.

Office of Administration - The Office of Administration consist of the purchasing, budget, Human Resources, Contract Management, and travel coordination sections.

The mission of the Operational Support Services Section (OSS), is to ensure workforce development and preparedness for all members of the Division. OSS helps to support the operational Bureaus of the Division. This is accomplished by providing valuable support solutions which are rapid, effective, efficient, and responsible. OSS works alongside with the Bureaus of Insurance Fraud, Workers' Compensation Fraud, Forensic Services, and Fire, Arson, and Explosive Investigations to provide exceptional customer service in supporting the Bureaus in the planning, mobilization, and sustaining of their staff.

Today, OSS helps to administer a combined annual budget of over \$40 million, which is used to fund a Division consisting 347 full-time employees of which is 271 sworn and 76 non-sworn members. In addition, OSS provides support and services to 16 field offices throughout the State.

Our mission statement defines the core purpose of OSS and highlights key aspects of our work. We exist to support the Division's Bureaus and Offices across the State of Florida. We enable successful implementation of mandates while working alongside our partners to provide services which meet their needs. We ensure our solutions deliver the desired outcomes, and we achieve maximum productivity with minimal wasted effort or expense. We provide this service within all regulations, rules, ethical standards, and procedures

Mission: We support our customers and partners to fulfil their mandates by providing exceptional customer service solutions which are effective, efficient, and responsible.

Vision: We work to be recognized for the operational excellence in the service of the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services' Mission.

Motto: Preparing and supporting the Division's members who are tasked with the mission of serving and safeguarding the State against Fraud, Arson, and the misuse of state funds.

K-9 Unit

ACCELERANT DETECTION TEAM



Unit Commander
Capt. Ross Holt
& ADC Icy



Asst. Commander
Det. Jeff Batz
& ADC Booker



Lt. David Young
& ADC Fresca



Lt. Amelia Bowling
& ADC Penzy



Det. Cody McIntyre
& ADC Rico



Det. Matthew Huffman
& ADC Shay Lea



Det. Paul Snider
& ADC Buffett



Det. Daniel Koehler
& ADC Ruthie

EXPLOSIVES DETECTION CANINE TEAM



Det. Brandon Kiser
& ADC Eddy



Det. Chris Newman
& EDC Sumi



Det. Monty Taylor
& EDC Oregon

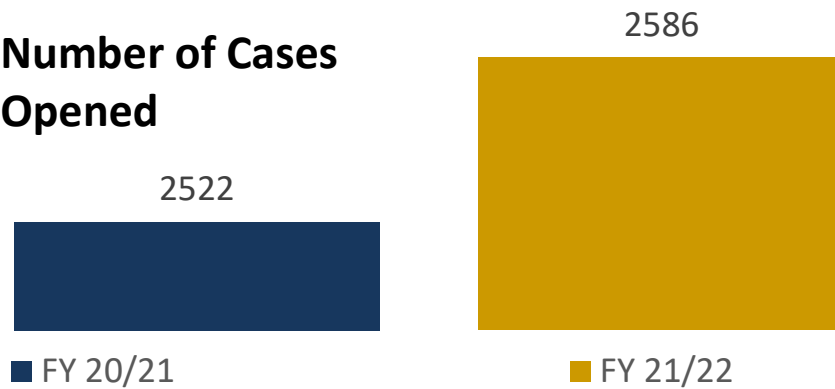


Capt. Jason Roberts
& EDC Porsha

Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosive Investigations

Fiscal Year Stats

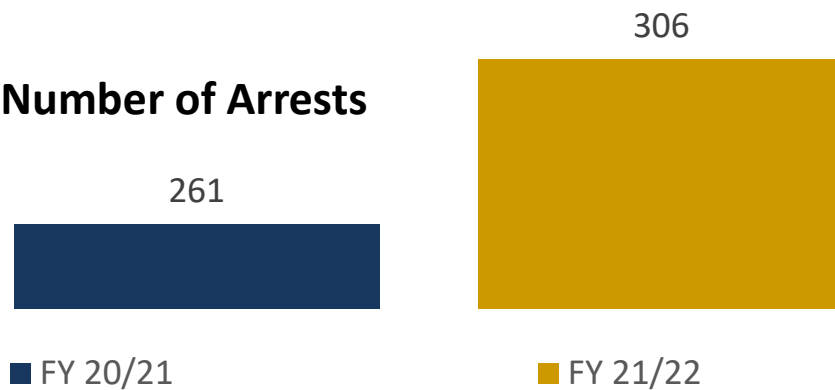
Number of Cases Opened



Number of Cases Presented for Prosecution



Number of Arrests



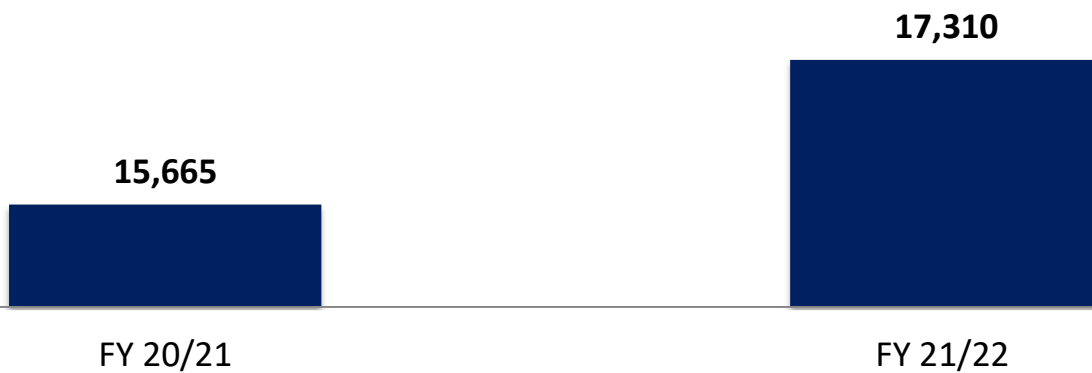
Number of Successful Prosecutions



Bureau of Insurance Fraud Fiscal Year Stats

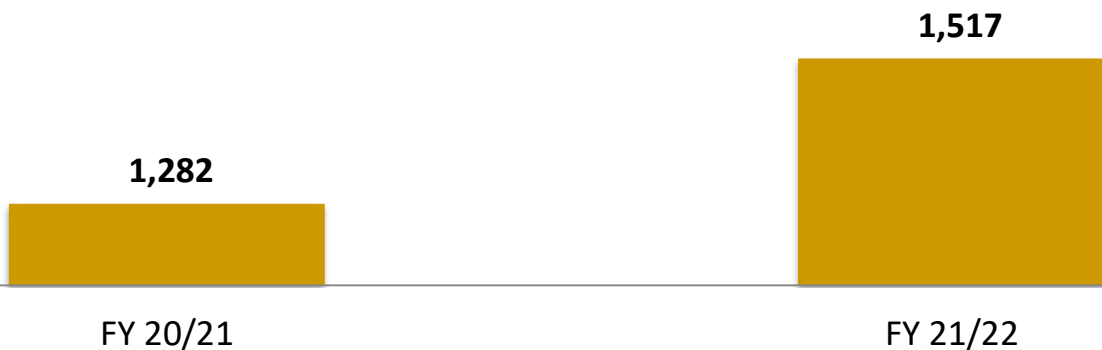
Number of Complaints (Suspected Fraud Referrals) by Fraud Type

| Fiscal Year | PIP | WC | Vehicle | Health | Homeowners | Licensee | Other | Total |
|-----------------|-------|-------|---------|--------|------------|----------|-------|--------|
| FY 20/21 | 4,044 | 1,108 | 2,566 | 1,096 | 1,786 | 271 | 4,794 | 15,665 |
| FY 21/22 | 4,345 | 1,106 | 5,358 | 1,151 | 2,585 | 390 | 2,375 | 17,310 |



Number of Case Opened by Fraud Type

| Fiscal Year | PIP | WC | Vehicle | Health | Homeowners | Licensee | Other | Total |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|------------|----------|-------|-------|
| FY 20/21 | 199 | 349 | 166 | 61 | 128 | 64 | 315 | 1,282 |
| FY 21/22 | 190 | 388 | 268 | 62 | 336 | 60 | 213 | 1,517 |

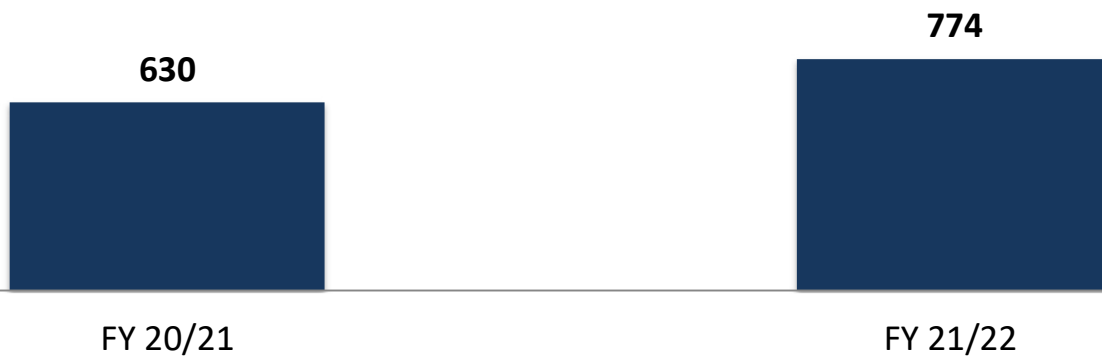


Bureau of Insurance Fraud

Fiscal Year Stats

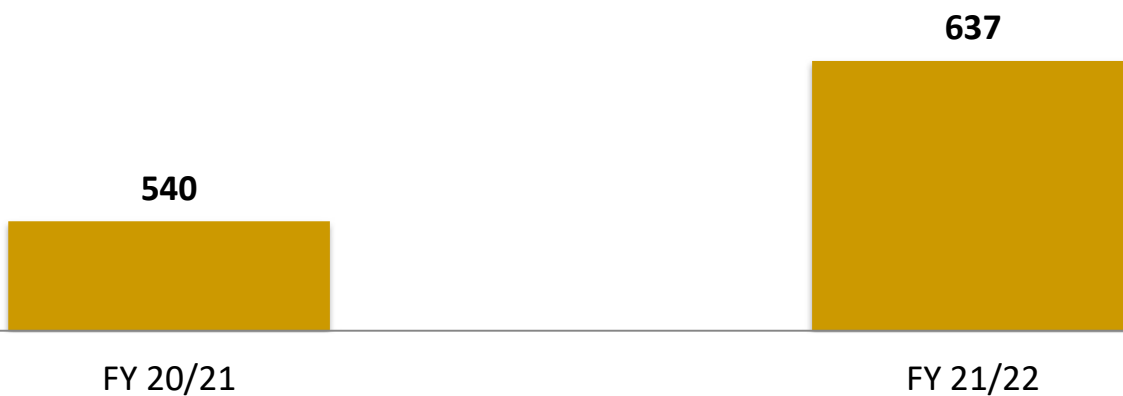
Number of Cases Presented for Prosecution by Fraud Type

| Fiscal Year | PIP | WC | Vehicle | Health | Homeowners | Licensee | Other | Total |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|------------|----------|-------|-------|
| FY 20/21 | 100 | 217 | 57 | 41 | 40 | 33 | 142 | 630 |
| FY 21/22 | 141 | 267 | 132 | 40 | 96 | 29 | 69 | 774 |



Number of Arrests by Fraud Type

| Fiscal Year | PIP | WC | Vehicle | Health | Homeowners | Licensee | Other | Total |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|------------|----------|-------|-------|
| FY 20/21 | 87 | 209 | 63 | 28 | 32 | 26 | 95 | 540 |
| FY 21/22 | 126 | 217 | 110 | 34 | 55 | 30 | 63 | 637 |

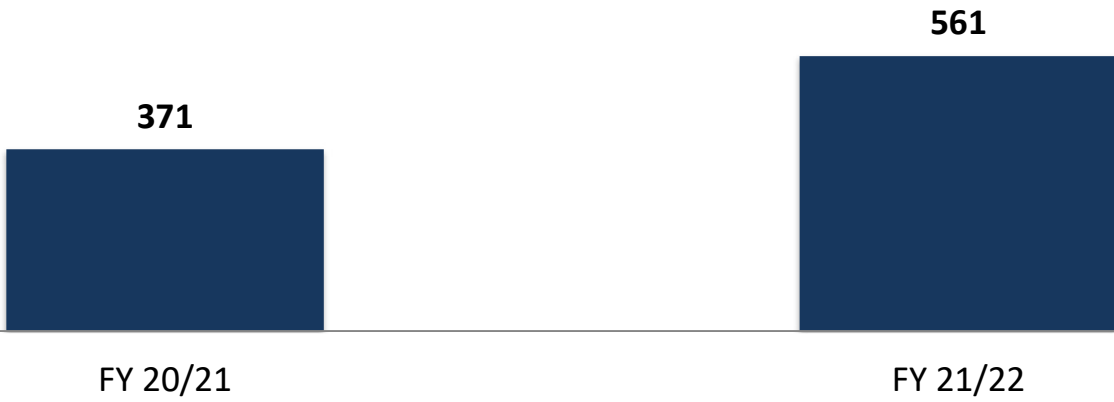


Bureau of Insurance Fraud

Fiscal Year Stats

Number of Successful Prosecutions by Fraud Type

| Fiscal Year | PIP | WC | Vehicle | Health | Homeowners | Licensee | Other | Total |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|------------|----------|-------|-------|
| FY 20/21 | 73 | 164 | 24 | 22 | 14 | 13 | 61 | 371 |
| FY 21/22 | 86 | 187 | 108 | 53 | 39 | 40 | 48 | 561 |



FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR THE DIVISION

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Salary and Benefits | \$29,929,627 |
| Other Personal Services | \$130,939 |
| Expenses | \$4,706,478 |
| Operating Capital Outlay | \$351,057 |
| Acquisition of Motor Vehicles | \$337,805 |
| Transfer to Justice Administration Commission | \$2,176,094 |
| Contracted Services | \$855,263 |
| On Call Fees | \$407,500 |
| Operation of Motor Vehicles | \$379,253 |
| Risk Management Insurance | \$745,459 |
| Deferred Payment Commodity Contracts (Tasers) | \$186,000 |
| Salary Incentive Payments (CJIP) | \$328,900 |
| Supplemental Firefighters Compensation | \$8,000 |
| Lease or Lease -Purchase of Equipment | \$88,264 |
| Fixed Capital Outlay | \$35,000 |
| Transfer to Human Resources | \$97,226 |
| TOTAL ALL FUNDS | \$40,762,865 |

REPORT SUSPECTED ARSON IN FLORIDA

REPORT ARSON

1-877-NO-ARSON

1-877-622-7766

If you have information regarding an ARSON or EXPLOSIVE DEVICE INCIDENT anywhere in the state of Florida, you can submit an anonymous tip through the online tip form OR call the number above. Your tip information will be relayed to the appropriate Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations Regional Office.

arsonreporting.fldfs.com



**DOGTIRED OF YOUR INSURANCE RATES?
LOWER THEM
REPORT INSURANCE FRAUD!
You may be eligible for a REWARD
1-800-378-0445**



FOAA



STANDARDS

PROFESSIONALISM

ETHICAL BEHAVIOR

PURSUIT OF FRAUD
AND ABUSE

