

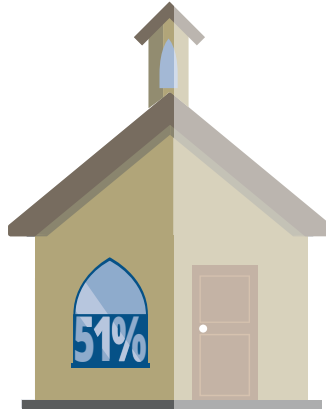
Preventing Arson at Houses of Worship

2017 Arson Awareness Week

Arson at Houses of Worship Statistics

103

According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' U.S. Bomb Data Center's Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS), there have been an average of **103 arson fires per year** at houses of worship reported by federal, state and local agencies during the 16-year period from 2000 to 2015. BATS shows the most house of worship fires in 2003 with 140 reported and the fewest in 2011 with 72 arson fires. Less than 2 percent (1.86 percent) were initially investigated as a hate crime.



In the U.S., between 1996 and 2015, **51 percent** of the reported incidents at houses of worship were determined to be caused by arson, according to a recent analysis by the Pew Research Center.

1,600

 fires

2 civilian deaths
16 civilian injuries
\$105 million dollars

The National Fire Protection Association reports that the 2007 to 2011 annual averages for structure fires in religious properties (church, mosque, synagogue, temple or chapel) are **1,600 fires with two civilian deaths, 16 civilian injuries, and \$105 million in direct property damage.**

Arson Prevention Tips for Houses of Worship



Illuminate exterior and entrances — Arsonists, like burglars, fear light.



Clear obstructions like shrubbery that block the view of the building.



Install smoke alarms and a fire sprinkler system.



Keep doors and windows locked.



Clean up — Remove anything that could fuel a fire for an arsonist.



Establish an arson watch program.



For more information, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/aaw.