

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
1110-0008
MONTHLY RETURN OF ARSON OFFENSES KNOWN TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

A revision of this currently approved collection is requested in addition to a 3-year extension.

The revisions on the existing form are:

1. Adjust the Rev. date to 08-08-08; Adjust expiration date to 12-31-11
2. The first sentence, delete *report* and replace with *form* and abbreviate *United States* to *U.S.*
3. Second sentence, Delete “Even though you are not required to respond” and capitalize Y in

Your. Delete *using* and replace with *completing*.
4. Third sentence, delete *report* and replace with *form*, insert acronym *FBI* for *Federal Bureau of Investigation*.
5. Fourth sentence, delete *the form* and replace with *this form*.
6. Fifth sentence, delete *the form* and replace with *this form*.
7. At the bottom of the page after Prepared change the capital B in By to a smaller case b and

then add /Telephone number/Email address. Delete *Commissioner* and *or*, then add a comma after Superintendent and add *Commanding Officer* and move this line over to the

right.

A. Justification.

1. Necessity of Information Collection

In 1930, under Title 28, Section 534, U.S. Code, *Acquisition, Preservation, and Exchange of Identification Records; Appointment of Officials*, the FBI was designated by the Attorney General to acquire, collect, classify, and preserve national data on criminal offenses as part of the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR).

The Form 1-725, *Monthly Return of Arson Offenses Known to Law Enforcement*, provides for the national UCR Program details regarding structural property, whether it be uninhabited, abandoned, or normally not in use; mobile property, as motor vehicles, trailers, airplanes, or boats; or other types of property, such as crops, timber, or signs and the form provides an estimated value of property damage for each arson reported.

The FBI serves as the national clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of arson statistics and publishes these data in the annual edition of *Crime in the United States (CIUS)*.

2. Needs and Uses

The 1-725 form is utilized for law enforcement agencies to report arson data to the FBI on hard copy. Arson data serve as a valuable resource to city, county, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement agencies, as well as Academe, other government agencies, public, and media. Dissemination of the arson data are provided in the annual publication *CIUS* or when requested, supplied on hard copy printout or magnetic media. These arson data are of invaluable use for research and statistical analysis. Examples of agencies' uses are:

- a. The FBI serves as the national clearinghouse for storage of all arson statistics, therefore, these data are available upon request to any requester.
- b. The Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJS), utilizes the UCR Program data in awarding local law enforcement formula grants.
- c. Annual UCR data are provided to the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research. This central repository serves as a single facility from which colleges/universities can obtain social science data.

3. Use of Information Technology

Currently, 79 percent of participating law enforcement agencies submit Form 1-725 electronically. Electronic submissions are received via magnetic media and/or Law Enforcement Online, (LEO) e-mail ucrstat@leo.gov. The ability of agency participants (state UCR Programs) to transmit monthly data via the LEO has eliminated the need for participants to mail magnetic media or hard copy reports to the FBI. Recently the UCR Program made this form available as a pdf printable form on the Internet at www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/formssummary.htm

4. Efforts to Identify Duplication

This information collection was authorized in direct response to the enactment of Title 28, Section 534, U.S. Code. The FBI's UCR Program is the only agency collecting extensive data on arson.

5. Minimizing Burden on Small Businesses

This information will have no significant impact on small business. No small business will be affected by this collection.

6. Consequences of Not Conducting or Less Frequent Collection

In order to serve as the national repository for crime reporting and to produce a reliable dataset, the FBI collects monthly statistics on arson that are reported by participating UCR Program contributors. There is an ever-increasing need for timely and accurate data dissemination by the FBI to assist our partners in law enforcement.

7. Special Circumstances

All summary and incident-based data are collected/received from the FBI's UCR Program participants on a monthly basis. The FBI's UCR Program has established various time frames and deadlines for acquiring the monthly data. Monthly reports/submissions should be received by the FBI by the seventh day after the close of each month. Annual deadlines are also designated in order to collect/assess receipt of monthly submissions. There are times when special circumstances may cause an agency to request an extension. The UCR Program has the authority to grant these extensions. Participation in the UCR Program is voluntary.

8. Public Comments and Consultations

No public comments were received regarding this collection and no outside consultation were performed as well.

9. Provision of Payments or Gifts to Respondents

The FBI's UCR Program does not provide any payment or gift to respondents.

10. Assurance of Confidentiality

Form 1-725 does not contain personal identifier information that may reveal the identity of an individual.

The data is obtained from public agencies and are, therefore, in the public domain. We do not assure confidentiality.

11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

Form 1-725 does not collect information of a sensitive nature.

12. Estimate of Respondent's Burden

The estimated cost of the respondent's burden for this data collection is as follows:

Number of respondents	17,523
Number of responses per respondent	12 times per year
Total annual responses	210,276
Minutes per response	9
Annual hour burden	20,465

Means of Submitting	No. of Agencies	Frequency	Response Time	Annual hour burden
Hard copy forms	3,677	12 times/year	9 min	6,619
Electronically (by magnetic media and/or LEO)	13,846	12 times/year	5 min	13,846

Total number of agencies reporting 17,523

Total annual responses $17,523 \times 12 = 210,276$

Total annual hour burden $6,619 + 13,846 = 20,465$

13. Estimate of Cost Burden

There are no direct costs to law enforcement to participate in the UCR Program other than their time to respond. With the renewal of this form, there are no revisions of a technical nature; therefore, respondents are not expected to incur any capital, start-up, or system maintenance costs associated with this information collection.

14. Cost to Federal Government

It is difficult to estimate the annual cost to the federal government under the clearance request. The following are generalized projections based upon prior collection activity as well as activities anticipated over the next 3 years.

Arson Data Collection and Processing Costs

\$635,291

The reduction in cost has occurred due to a detailed cost projection provided by CJIS Financial Management Unit

Preliminary 6/12 month reports	\$16,192
Crime in the United States	\$116,745
Manuals	\$13,821
Special studies	\$168,062
Data requests	\$17,846
APB services	\$36,472
Press Releases	\$710
State program bulletins	\$5,363
Audit Reports	\$39,461
Summary/NIBRS data collection	\$74,234
Summary/NIBRS	\$60,140
Training materials	\$14,349
Training	\$56,016
<u>UCR Program Development</u>	<u>\$15,880</u>
Total cost to federal government	\$635,291

15. Reason for Change in Burden

There is no increase in burden on the individual respondents; however, the overall annual burden hours have decreased. This is an adjustment; a decrease from 31,498 to 20,465 which is a decrease of 11,033 and is attributable to the number of respondents that have transitioned to electronic submission of data.

16. Anticipated Publication Plan and Schedule

Published data are derived from data submissions furnished to the FBI from local, county, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement agencies throughout the country. National, regional, and state data are published in the annual edition of *CIUS*.

Request for missing Jan-Jun data	August and September
Request for missing 12 month data	February and March, following year
Deadline to submit data	mid-March
Data processing/analysis	July-May
Publication of data	<i>CIUS</i> /September following year

17. Display of Expiration Date

The UCR Program will display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection.

18. Exception to the Certification Statement

The UCR Program does not request an exception to the certification of this information collection.

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods.

The UCR Program does not employ statistical methods when collecting this information.