



City of Dallas

Overview of Dallas Fire-Rescue Prevention & Investigation Bureau

**Public Safety Committee
February 10, 2025**

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City of Dallas

Presentation Overview



- Mission, Vision, and Core Values
- Fire Prevention & Investigation Overview
- Fire Causes & Methodology
- Case Study – West Dallas Arson
- Fire Investigation Division Data
- Fire Inspections Division Philosophy
- High-Risk Inspections
- Cost Recovery for Inspections



Mission, Vision, and Values



Mission Statement

“To improve quality of life by protecting the community and first responders from the risks and consequences of fire by utilizing investigative data to drive proactive education and enforcement measures.”

Vision Statement

“Represent equity, service, and ethics while reflecting excellence as a team.”

Core Values

Integrity – Equity – Transparency – Dedication



Fire Prevention & Investigation Overview



Fire Prevention and Education Division:

- Focus on educating residents on life safety practices.
- Enforce fire codes through education and compliance.
- Work with businesses to ensure adherence to fire safety regulations.

Fire Investigation Division:

- Investigates all fires resulting in property loss, injury, or fatalities.
- Uses investigative data to prevent future incidents.



Fire Causes and Methodology



Fire Causes:

1. **Accidental** – No deliberate intent (e.g., electrical faults, cooking accidents).
2. **Natural** – Fire caused by environmental factors (e.g., lightning, wind).
3. **Incendiary** – Deliberately set fires (arson).
4. **Undetermined** – Insufficient evidence to classify the cause.

NFPA 921 Investigation Steps:

1. **Identify the Problem** – Recognize the need for an investigation.
2. **Collect Data** – Gather evidence through observation and experimentation.
3. **Form a Hypothesis** – Develop a theory on the fire's cause.
4. **Test the Hypothesis** – Use deductive reasoning to validate the theory.
5. **Draw a Conclusion** – Select the most likely cause based on evidence.



Case Study – West Dallas Arson (May 2024)



Incident Overview:

- DFR responded to a structure fire in West Dallas.
- Heavy fire was observed upon arrival.



Case Study – West Dallas Arson (May 2024)



Investigation Findings:

- Two separate fires set at the same location.
- Investigators identified the house occupant as a suspect.
- The suspect confessed and was arrested for **Arson of a Habitation (Felony 1)**.



Fire Investigation Division Data



Key Metrics:

- **Arrests & Clearance Rates** – Number of cases closed with identified suspects.
- **Fire Cause Data** – Used to inform public education efforts.
- **Fire Casualties** – Drives targeted safety interventions, such as smoke alarm blitzes.
- **Geospatial Analysis** – Mapping fire incidents to identify high-risk areas.

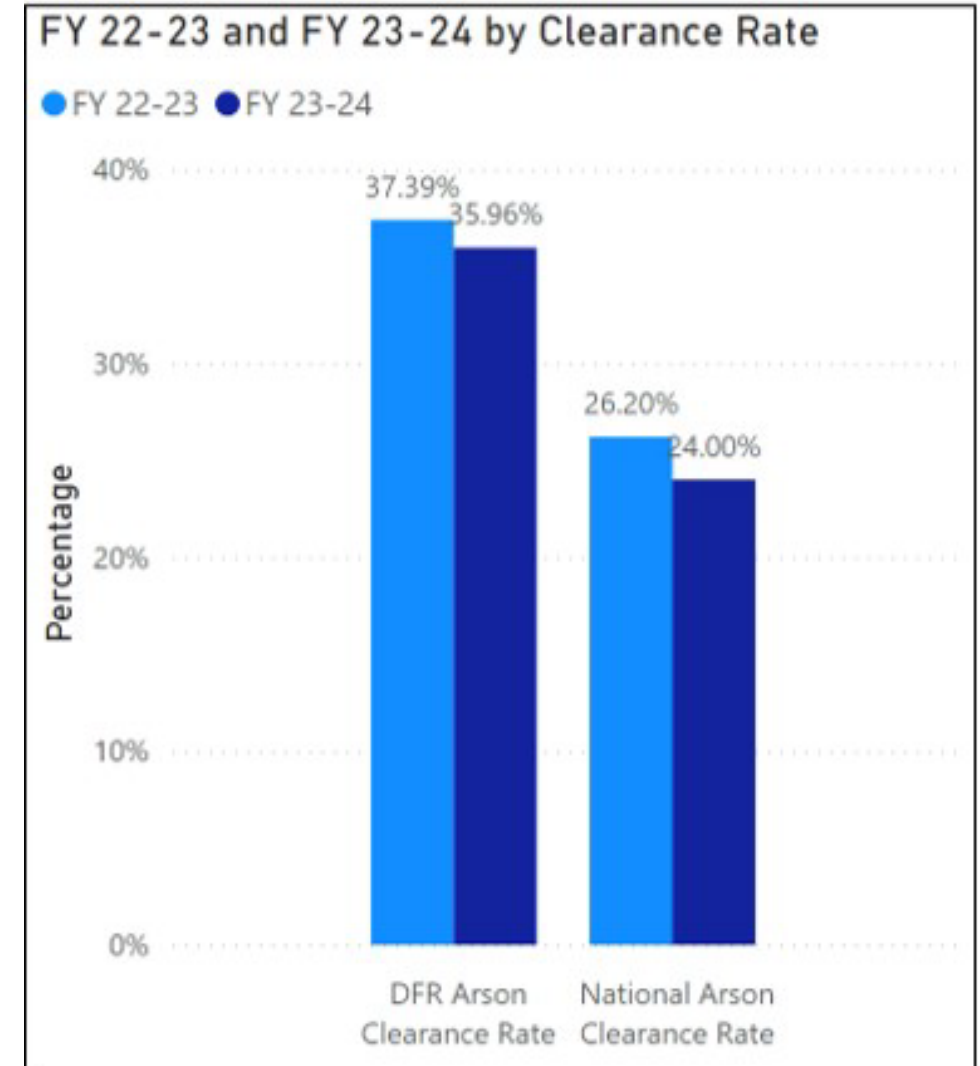


Fire Investigation Division Data



- Arrests
- Clearance Rates

Offense Categories	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
F1 - Arson of a Habitation (occupied structure)	9	20	
F2 - Aggravated Assault		1	
F2 - Arson of a Commercial Structure		1	
F2 - Arson of a Habitation (vacant structure)	2	5	
F2 - Arson of a Motor Vehicle	4	12	
F2 - Arson of Other Mobile Property		1	
F2 - Attempted Arson of a Habitation		2	
Misdemeanor - Criminal Mischief		1	
State Jail Felony - Arson of a Habitation		2	
Total	15	45	



Fire Inspections Division Philosophy



Core Pillars:

- 1. Inspections** – Regular assessments ensure compliance.
- 2. Partnership** – Working with businesses and communities.
- 3. Enforcement** – Applying fire codes consistently.
- 4. Accountability** – Holding property owners responsible for safety.



High-Risk Inspections: Overview



Targeted High-Risk Areas:

- Hazardous Materials
- High-Rise & Healthcare Facilities
- Public Assembly Venues & Nightlife
- Multi-Family Housing

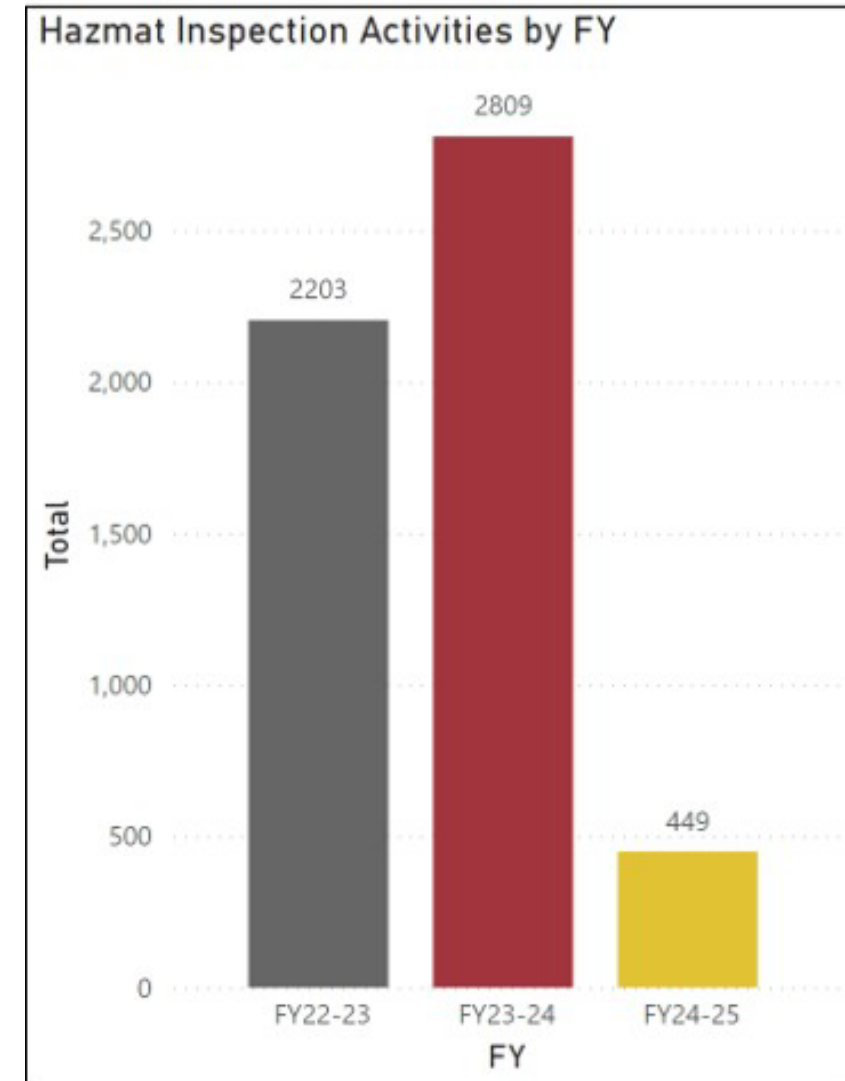


High-Risk Inspections: Hazardous Materials



Inspections Focus:

- Flammables
- Explosives
- Corrosives
- Toxics

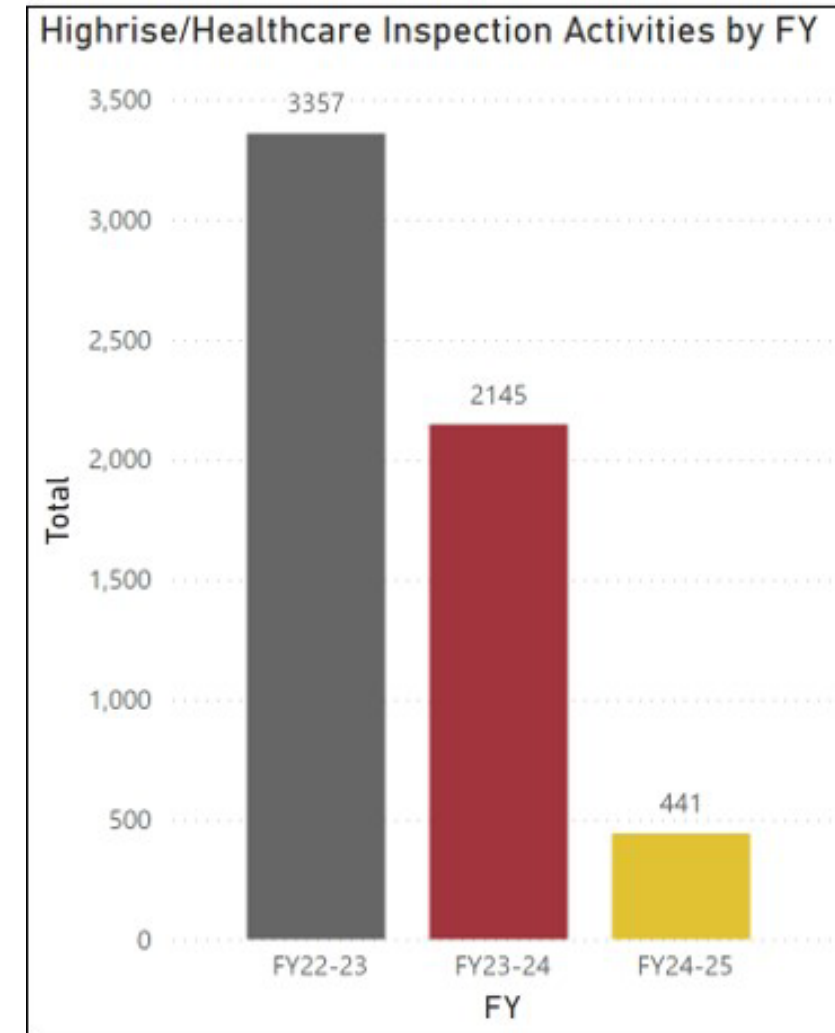


High-Risk Inspections: High Rise / Healthcare



Inspection Considerations:

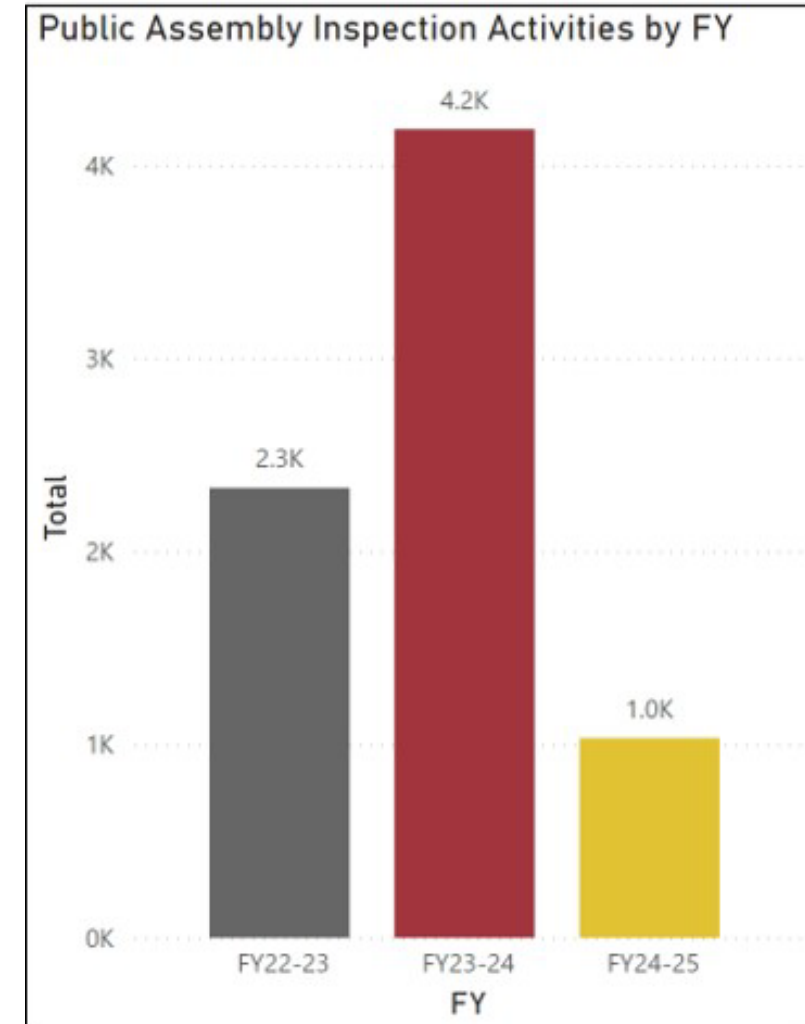
- Structures taller than 7 stories
- Hospitals
- Vulnerable Populations
- Passive Fire Protection Systems





Key Risk Factors:

- Large gatherings (clubs, theaters, stadiums).
- Egress and evacuation concerns.
- High potential for mass casualties.

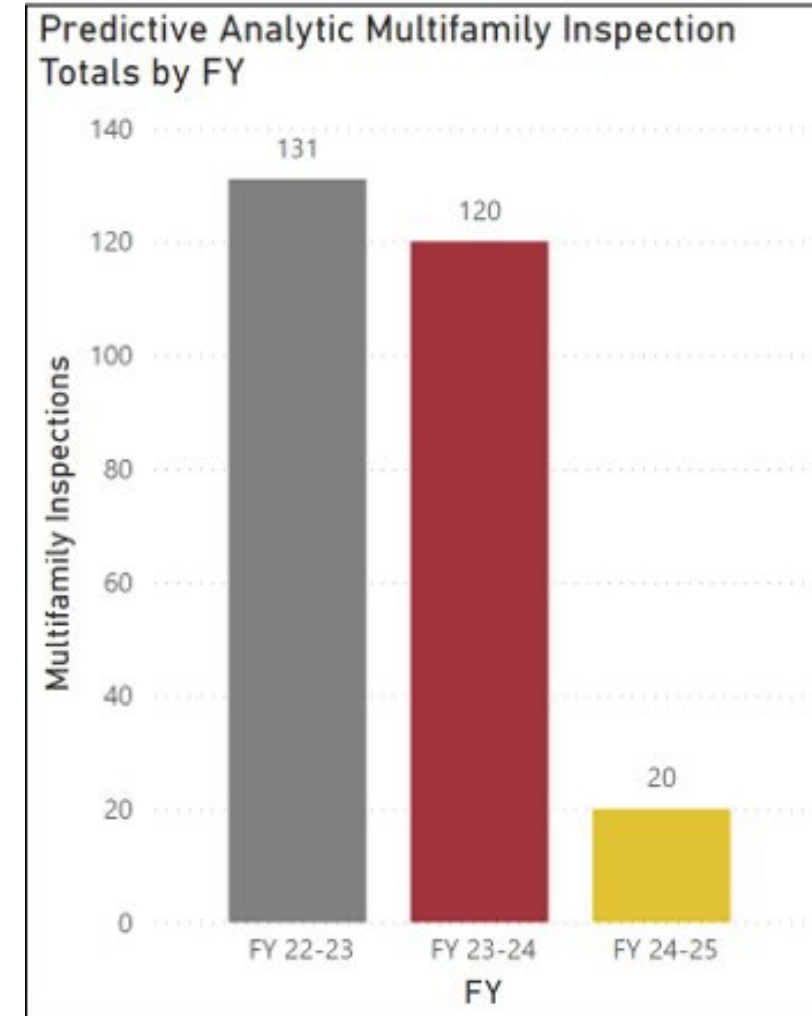


High-Risk Inspections: Multi-Family



Key Focus Areas:

- Apartments & hotels.
- MIT predictive model for risk assessment.
- Collaboration with Dallas Analytics & Business Intelligence.

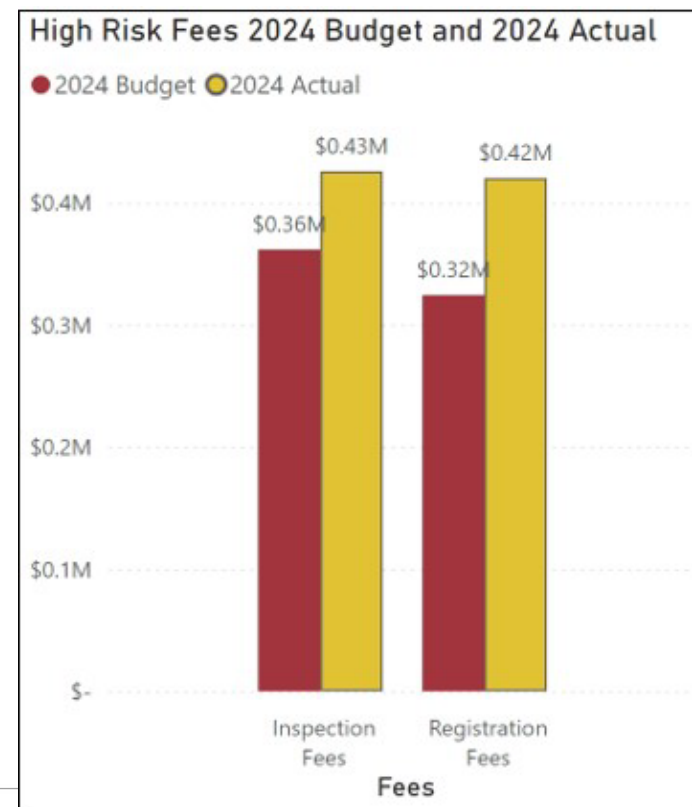
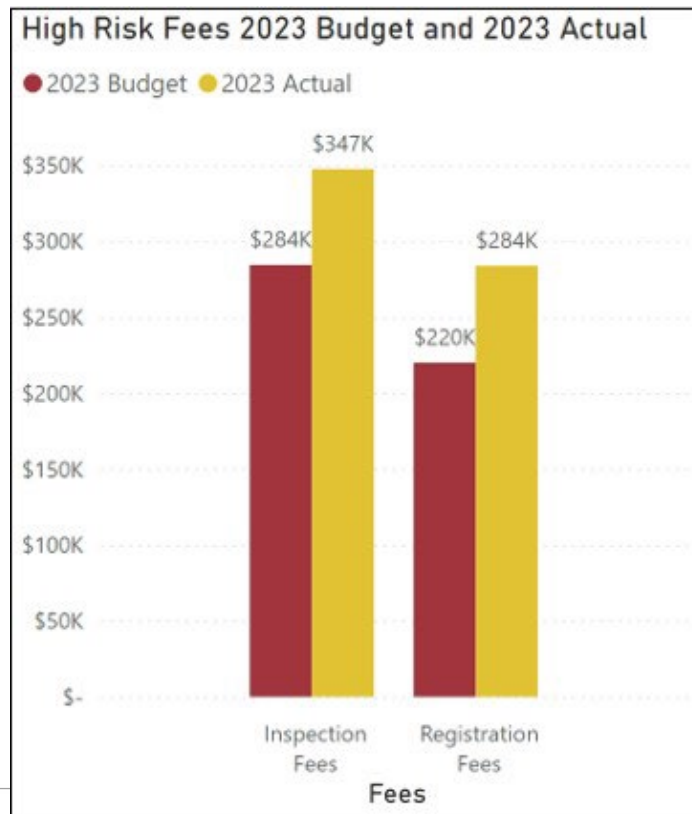


Cost Recovery for Inspections



Strategies for Financial Sustainability:

- Fee structures for fire inspections.
- Grants and funding opportunities.
- Collaboration with private sector stakeholders.



Summary & Key Takeaways



- **Fire Prevention and Investigation** play a crucial role in **public safety**.
- **Data-driven** approaches improve **efficiency** and **effectiveness**.
- High-risk inspections **focus** on **hazardous materials**, **large gatherings**, and **multi-family housing**.
- **Community education** and enforcement are critical to **reducing fire risks**.





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