

BOMBING AND ARSON ATTACKS BY ENVIRONMENTAL AND ANIMAL RIGHTS EXTREMISTS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1995-2010

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PURPOSE

COLLECT data on bombings and arsons committed by individuals associated with ALF or ELF

ANALYZE incident and perpetrator characteristics to support analysts and law enforcement in assessing the threat posed by these groups

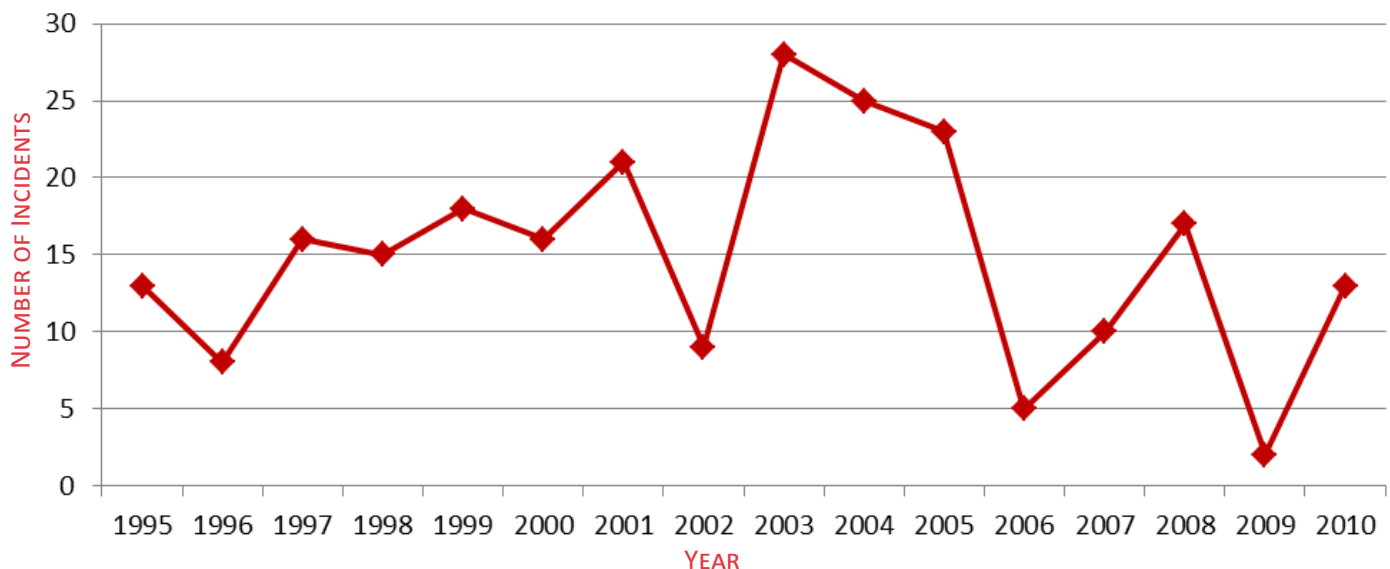
BACKGROUND

This research highlight provides an overview of the arsons and bombings conducted by perpetrators affiliated with the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and Animal Liberation Front (ALF) between 1995 and 2010, and analyzes the characteristics of the individuals convicted of these crimes. Data are drawn from the U.S. Extremist Crime Database.

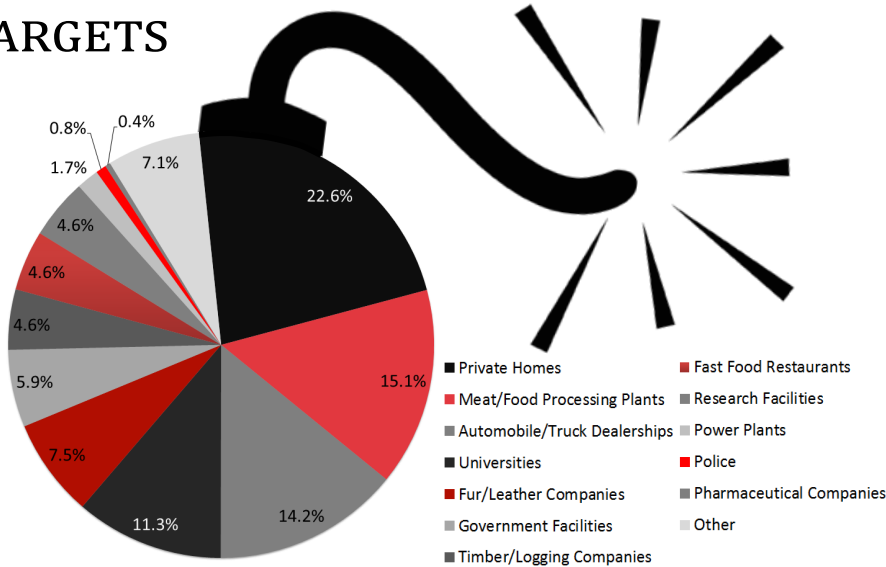
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Between 1995 and 2010, 239 arson and bombing attacks were committed by ELF and ALF, with 55% attributed to ELF and 45% to ALF.
- Of these 239 incidents, 62% were bombings and 38% were arsons.
- 66% of incidents occurred in the West, 14% in the Midwest, 13% in the Northeast, and 7% in the South.
- Only 39% of incidents were isolated, or, not related to other incidents.
- One or more arrest was made in only 34% of incidents.
- The majority of offenders were male (74%), white (100%), not married (88%), and had at least some college education (69%).
- Some offenders had ties to only ALF (6%) or ELF (39%), but most of them (55%) were connected to both groups.
- 45% of the incidents were motivated by the need to protect animals and/or prevent testing with animals, 23% by anti-sprawl concerns, and 20% by anti-corporation/business development views.

ELF & ALF ARSONS AND BOMBINGS BY YEAR



TARGETS



PERPETRATORS

Number of Offenses	Number of Offenders
1	32
2	13
3	4
4	3
7	3
8	1
10	1
11	1
15	1
147 Offenses	59 Offenders

INVOLVEMENT & RECRUITMENT

Nature of Involvement	All Offenders	Offenders with One Offense	Repeat Offenders
Lone Actor	5.3%	7.4%	4.8%
Acted with Others	6.9%	23.9%	1.9%
Formal Group	9.2%	11.1%	8.7%
Informal Group	78.6%	55.6%	84.6%

Recruited into Group	All Offenders	Offenders with One Offense	Repeat Offenders
Personal Connection	50.0%	14.3%	100.0%
Individual Decision	33.3%	57.1%	0.0%
Internet	16.7%	28.6%	0.0%

* A perpetrator who was convicted of multiple attacks would be included in these analyses more than once, as the nature of their involvement or means of recruitment might change with each offense.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- ◆ A relatively small group of individuals was responsible for a large number of offenses.
- ◆ ALF and ELF's focus to date on property over human targets has influenced where and when they have attacked.
- ◆ ALF and ELF perpetrators have often been difficult to identify as they tend to join the movement through personal contacts, commit offenses working in small cells, and rarely engage in other movement-related activities.

TERRORISM & EXTREMIST VIOLENCE IN THE U.S. DATABASE

This research is part of a larger effort to develop a comprehensive database on Terrorism and Extremist Violence in the U.S. (TEVUS) that integrates data from the Global Terrorism Database, the American Terrorism Study, Profiles of Perpetrators of Terrorism in the U.S., and the U.S. Extremist Crime Database. Led by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), the research team is creating a resource that will allow operational and academic end-users to conduct unprecedented analyses that incorporate incident, perpetrator, and geospatial information.



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