Examples of Arson (Continued)

Scenario 2: A suspicious fire is reported in a campus academic building, but fire authorities cannot determine if it was intentionally set. Do not include this incident as an Arson in your annual crime statistical disclosures.

Scenario 3: A resident of a noncampus Greek house sets fire to his couch on the lawn in front of the house in celebration of a school football victory. Investigators determine that the incident was Arson. Classify this as one Arson in the noncampus category.

Scenario 4: A fire is reported in a campus dormitory. Ten students are killed as a direct result of the flames and asphyxiation. Two more students die from internal injuries when they attempt to jump to safety. Six people are hospitalized with second- and third-degree burns. Investigation determines that the fire was intentional. Classify this as one Arson in the on-campus category and the on-campus student housing facility category and twelve Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughters in the on-campus category and the on-campus student housing facility category.

Scenario 5: A student is seen setting fire to a paper advertisement on an on-campus dormitory bulletin board. Investigation determines that the student willfully set fire to the paper. Classify this as one Arson in the on-campus and the on-campus student housing facility categories.

Beyond the Basics—Additional Rules for Counting and Disclosing Crimes

The Hierarchy Rule

When counting multiple offenses, you must use the FBI’s UCR Hierarchy Rule. This rule requires you to count only the most serious offense when more than one offense was committed during a single incident. A single incident means that the offenses were committed at the same time and place. That is, the time interval between the offenses and the distance between the locations where they occurred were insignificant. Beginning with the most serious offense, the following list shows the hierarchy for Clery Act reporting:

- Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter
- Negligent Manslaughter
- Forcible Sex Offenses
- Non-forcible Sex Offenses
- Robbery
- Aggravated Assault
- Burglary
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Arrests
- Referrals for Disciplinary Action
Although arrests and referrals are technically not part of the hierarchy, they are shown here to illustrate their place in counting crimes. For example, if a student is arrested for Aggravated Assault and a Drug Abuse Violation, disclose only the Aggravated Assault.

A second example based on the hierarchy rule might be if a student is both forcibly raped and robbed during a single incident. In this case, disclose only the Forcible Sex Offense, because it is classified as the more serious crime in the hierarchy.

There are exceptions to using the hierarchy rule when counting offenses. They apply to Arson and Hate Crimes. (See pages 61 and 62 for the rules for counting Hate Crimes.) The rules for counting Arson are as follows:

- Always count Arson regardless of the nature of any other offenses that were committed during the same incident.
- When multiple offenses are committed during the same distinct operation as the Arson offense, report the most serious offense along with the Arson.
- Classify incidents in which persons are killed as a direct result of Arson as Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter and Arson or Negligent Manslaughter and Arson.

**Attempted Crimes**

Do not differentiate between attempted and completed crimes. For example, count an incident involving an attempted forcible rape as a Forcible Sex Offense. The only exception to this rule applies to attempts or assaults to murder when the victim does not die. Classify these incidents as Aggravated Assaults rather than murders.

**Status of the Victim and Perpetrator**

The status of the victim and the perpetrator is irrelevant. Count all Clery Act crimes, even if they involve individuals not associated with the institution.