

# OSAC RESEARCH NEEDS ASSESSMENT FORM



**Title of research need:**

**Describe the need:**

The ATF Fire Research Laboratory (FRL) is the federal facility charged with conducting research specifically related to the investigation of fires. This research is not disseminated. A mechanism needs to be developed so that this research can be disseminated in a timely fashion to the broader fire investigation community. Over years of testing, the ATF FRL has acted as a steward of the data, archiving all of the data in a way that does not contain sensitive information; the problem lies with obtaining approval for distribution of the data, and logistics for dissemination. This data need is for development of a mechanism for gaining approval for and disseminating research conducted by the ATF Fire Research Laboratory.

**Keyword(s):**

**Submitting subcommittee(s):**  **Date Approved:**

*(If SAC review identifies additional subcommittees, add them to the box above.)*

**Background Information:**

1. Does this research need address a gap(s) in a current or planned standard? (ex.: Field identification system for on scene opioid detection and confirmation)

Yes. NFPA 921 contains references to the current state of research and the data derived therefrom. The ATF Fire Research Laboratory research is an untapped source of data for fire investigators.

2. Are you aware of any ongoing research that may address this research need that has not yet been published (e.g., research presented in conference proceedings, studies that you or a colleague have participated in but have yet to be published)?

No.

3. Key bibliographic references relating to this research need: (ex.: Toll, L., Standifer, K. M., Massotte, D., eds. (2019). Current Topics in Opioid Research. Lausanne: Frontiers Media SA. doi: 10.3389/978-2-88963-180-3)

N/A

4. Review the annual operational/research needs published by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) at <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/forensic-science-research-and-development-technology-working-group-operational#latest>? Is your research need identified by NIJ?

No.

5. In what ways would the research results improve current laboratory capabilities?

This research need is targeted to improve current fire investigation field work rather than laboratory analyses. The data that ATF Fire Research has accumulated from their years of testing and analysis is an untapped source that would help inform fire investigation practice.

6. In what ways would the research results improve understanding of the scientific basis for the subcommittee(s)?

See Number 5.

7. In what ways would the research results improve services to the criminal justice system?

Filling this need will help the fire investigation community to apply a more systematic approach relating to the analysis of fire origin and cause by making available additional data that has not been made available to date.

8. Status assessment (I, II, III, or IV):

I

	Major gap in current knowledge	Minor gap in current knowledge
No or limited current research is being conducted	I	III
Existing current research is being conducted	II	IV

*This research need has been identified by one or more subcommittees of OSAC and is being provided as an informational resource to the community.*