

Recidivism Factors and Prediction of Arson

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This study attempts to find the recidivism factors of arson, and to establish a prediction instrument for arson recidivism. Questionnaire was used, and arson inmates and non-arson inmates (totaling 630 inmates) were compared. The results showed that criminal versatility, indirect attack, impulsive attack, inferior resentment, childhood fire-play, other experiences with fire, attitude toward fire, fire-setting behaviors, and fire-setting function were related to recidivism of arson. They are arson recidivism factors. With these factors as independent variables and first-time arsonists or repeated arsonist as the dependent variable, logistic regression analysis showed that criminal versatility, attitude toward fire, and fire-setting behaviors had higher Wald values and reached significant differ-

ences. Therefore these three variables were selected as predictors to establish a prediction instrument for arson recidivism. The instrument showed a reliability (Cronbach alpha) of .76, and validity (prediction accuracy) of 79.3%. Finally, the self-appraisal and others-appraisal questionnaire, static and dynamic recidivism predictors, longitudinal and cross-sectional prediction research, the practice of the prediction instrument of arson recidivism, and future research directions were discussed.

Keywords: *arsonist, recidivism factor, recidivism prediction, prediction accuracy, recidivism prediction instrument*

