

Tempe Fire Department Policies and Procedures
Investigator Call-Out
305.01
Rev 10-12-09

PURPOSE

The objective of this procedure is to provide guidelines for fire officers when calling for fire investigators at incidents involving fire, explosions, burn injuries, suspected arson, hazardous material releases, or other incidents which may come before a criminal or civil court for disposition.

PROCEDURE

Determining Need

The fire officer in charge shall determine the need to summon an investigator.

Fire causes are numerous and the circumstances of each may vary. The following guidelines provide a basis for determining the need to initiate the response of an investigator. Although not all-inclusive of the situations encountered, any of the following may be used as determining factors to summon an investigator:

- When reasonable belief exists that the fire is of incendiary origin
- When the fire cause is not readily apparent
- Working fires; 3-1 or greater incidents
- When severe burn injuries or a fatality occurs
- Multiple still alarms occurring at or about the same time
- Single still alarms such as dumpsters when suspect information is available
- Industrial accidents resulting in severe injury or death (fire officer discretion)
- Fireworks or explosives related incidents
- Hazardous materials release or illegal disposal

If the fire officer in charge of an incident chooses not to summon an investigator they should be prepared to testify in civil/criminal court as to the causation of the incident. A written narrative report will be required by the Fire Marshal following an incident.

Code Violations

At incidents where fire code violations become the main issue, after hours response of an investigator should be limited to those situations that pose an immediate fire hazard, life safety issue, or any issue the fire officer is unable to resolve without assistance.

Investigator Response

Once the need for an investigator response has been determined the fire officer in charge shall utilize the Alarm Room to ensure proper notification and response of the investigator.

Once an investigator has been dispatched to an incident their response should be immediate. The investigator will advise the Alarm Room of an estimated response time. The arrival of an investigator at an incident should normally occur within 30 minutes of notification.

A fire officer in charge of an incident shall remain on the scene until arrival of the responding

investigator. The investigator shall respond to incidents properly attired wearing Department approved uniform and footwear. Tempe Fire Department t-shirts, sweatshirts, and ball caps are approved clothing for scene investigations.

INVESTIGATOR CALL-OUT SCHEDULING

See policy 305.06, Stand-By Duty, for procedure on Investigator Call-Out Scheduling.