



Alexandria Police Department

Directive 11.9



FIRE INCIDENTS

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11.9.01 POLICY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to define the responsibilities of this Department and the Fire Marshal's Office for the investigation of incidents involving fire, hazardous materials, and environmental offenses.

It is the policy of this Department to always work in a productive and cooperative relationship with the Fire Department in the handling of all incidents with concurrent jurisdiction.

11.9.02 RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of all offenses involving:
 1. Hazardous materials;
 2. Fires;
 3. Fire bombings;
 4. Bombings;

5. Attempts or threats to commit such offenses;
 6. False alarms relating to such offenses;
 7. Possession and manufacture of explosive devices, substances and firebombs;
and
 8. Environmental crimes, i.e., the discharge of a toxic substance into the air, water, or soil.
- B. The Police Department will assist the Fire Marshal's Office, upon request, in these investigations.
- C. The Police Department is responsible for the investigation of non-accidental deaths and other criminal offenses in fire related incidents (see 11.9.04, B).
- D. Officers at crime scenes or observing situations which they feel should be brought to the attention of the Fire Marshal's Office *will notify their supervisor and* indicate on the *Offense/Incident Report* (APD-7) that a copy of the report should be forwarded to the Fire Marshal's Office. Requests for a Fire Marshal to respond to a scene *will* be made by a supervisor through the *Department of Emergency Communications (DEC)*.
- E. Officers observing the commission of arson or establishing probable cause for an arson charge, which requires an immediate apprehension, should affect the arrest. The arresting officer will contact the Fire Marshal's Office and request assistance in processing evidence and gaining expert opinions on matters that are unique to the investigation and prosecution of arson.
- F. Officers investigating complaints involving fires will ensure that the Fire Marshal's Office is notified unless the Fire Department is on the scene.
- G. The Information Services Commander will ensure that copies of all fire related reports are sent to the Fire Marshal's Office.

11.9.03 REPORTING

- A. Officers will take reports on all fire related incidents, including, but not limited to:
1. A fire related death;
 2. A fire related injury;
 3. Fires involving criminal offenses;
 4. Deliberately set fires; and
 5. Anytime specifically requested by the Fire Marshal's Office.
- B. Notification of the Fire Marshal's Office does not relieve the officer at the scene from the responsibility of completing an APD-7.

11.9.04 JOINT INVESTIGATIONS

- A. If requested by the Fire Marshal's Office, an investigator from Criminal Investigations will be assigned to assist the Fire Marshal's Office with any fire related case which is a result of;
1. Arson;
 2. Suspected arson;
 3. An accidental fire resulting in death; or
 4. *Any incident where assistance is requested and at the approval of the Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) commander.*
- B. Deaths: Fire deaths, which result from an accidental cause, will remain the primary responsibility of the Fire Marshal's Office, with the notification of the Police Department. Fire deaths which result from arson, suspected arson or any other criminal offense will be investigated by the Criminal Investigations Section of the Police Department, with the assistance of the Fire Marshal's Office.
- C. Other Offenses: When the examination of a crime scene, i.e., burglary, auto theft, larceny, etc., indicates that a fire or an offense listed in section 11.9.02.A., above, is also involved, the investigating officer will notify the Fire Marshal's Office and provide the case number. He or she will also document this notification in the report.

By Authority Of:

**Earl L. Cook
Chief of Police**