

## FIRE SCENE INVESTIGATIONS

### Purposes:

- A. To ensure the investigation of all fires occurring within the jurisdictional area of the Burlington Fire Protection District.
- B. To initiate a system of fire investigation which begins at the company level and progresses to upper organizational levels, as necessary, based on the situation involving an emergency incident.
- C. To establish guidelines for assistance to determine the origin and cause, resulting in who or what was responsible and reasons for the occurrence.

### Guidelines:

- A. It shall be the policy of this district to make every effort to determine the origin and cause of all fires.
- B. During firefighting operations, be alert for conditions that may indicate incendiarism.
- C. Initiate fire investigation procedures as soon as possible after knockdown and before overhaul.
- D. Endeavor first to determine the point of origin, then the cause of the fire.
- E. Conduct overhaul operations with care as directed by the officer in charge during the investigation activities.
- F. Preserve all evidence that may be found.
- G. Secure overhaul operations as far as may be practical until the arrival of the investigator.
- H. The Incident Commander shall request the Boone County Fire Investigation Team whenever any of the following circumstances exist:
  - 1. The point of origin or cause of the fire can not be determined by on scene personnel.
  - 2. Arson, incendiary, or suspicious fire.
  - 3. Evidence or suspicions of any crime having occurred in connection with the emergency incident.
  - 4. Fires in connection with or resulting from an explosion.
  - 5. Fires resulting in fatalities of any person (including a vehicle or home).
  - 6. Fires resulting in injury serious enough to become a fatality.
  - 7. Incidents which, in the opinion of the Incident Commander, may result in a lawsuit or have legal ramifications.
  - 8. As deemed necessary by the Incident Commander.
- I. The Office of the State Fire Marshal shall be notified by the Incident Commander on all of the following incidents:
  - 1. A hazardous materials incident.
  - 2. A fire or fire-related fatality (including a vehicle or home).

3. A fire or fire-related injury serious enough to become a fatality.
  4. A fire involving major structural damage in the following building:
    - a. All institutional, educational, state-owned or state-leased and high hazard occupancies.
    - b. All business, mercantile and industrial occupancies having a capacity over 100 persons.
    - c. All assembly occupancies, except churches, having a capacity over 100 persons.
    - d. Churches with a capacity over 400 persons and more than 6,000 square feet.
    - e. Any other building more than three (3) stories in height or 20,000 square feet of floor area.
- J. The incident scene should not be left unsecured at any time during the investigation. At least one person should be posted at the scene until the investigation has closed or in the opinion of the Law Enforcement Officer a watch detail is not needed.