

EL DORADO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

ARTICLE 7: FIRE PREVENTION

EFFECTIVE DATE:

SECTION 1: FIRE INVESTIGATION

REVISED: 03-24-2018

7.1.1 RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIRE INVESTIGATION:

7.1.1.1 The El Dorado County Fire Protection District shall promptly investigate the cause, origin, and circumstances of all fires that involve loss of life, injury to person, or destruction or damage of property.

7.1.1.2 If the fire appears suspicious, immediate charge shall be taken of all physical evidence relating to the cause of the fire, and the investigation shall be pursued to its conclusion.

7.1.2 DUTIES OF THE INCIDENT COMMANDER:

7.1.2.1 It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander to provide for cause investigation.

7.1.2.2 When a Fire Investigator is on the scene or responding, suppression companies shall delay non-essential overhaul until the Investigator has time to survey the area. Salvage operations that would stop further property damage should continue if it does not interfere with the area of origin and any possible evidence.

7.1.2.3 When a delay in response by an Investigator is indicated, the Incident Commander shall assign personnel to protect the fire scene and maintain custody until the arrival of the Investigator.

7.1.2.4 The Incident Commander will turn over jurisdiction of the fire area to the Investigator as soon as possible after the fire is stabilized. The Investigator may inform the Incident Commander that he intends to maintain custody of the scene for further investigation.

7.1.2.5 The Investigator will request from the Incident Commander any personnel or equipment needed to assist in the investigation.

7.1.2.6 All personnel will cooperate with the Investigator. Protection of the fire scene and preservation of physical evidence will be a primary concern once life safety is secure and fire control achieved.

7.1.3 PROCEDURE TO CALL FOR FIRE INVESTIGATOR:

7.1.3.1 The Incident Commander shall be responsible for the callout of the Investigator. The IC shall make the request through the ECC
When requesting an Investigator, Contact the ECC and request a County Fire Investigator be dispatched via All-Call Radio Alert and Investigator Text Pager at (530) 291-2835.

An Investigator shall be requested in all the following circumstances:

1. All building fires where on-scene personnel cannot determine accidental cause.
2. Incendiary or suspicious fires in structures, vehicles, or vegetation.
3. Where there are unusual circumstances involved.
4. Any structure fire with a loss greater than \$50,000.00.
5. Fires where there are fatalities, serious injuries or major burns involving civilians or firefighters.
6. When an arrest has been made by a Police Officer and/or a suspect has been taken into custody regarding an arson/explosion incident.
7. Any bomb, explosive, or Molotov cocktail incident.
8. Any burn injuries that are determined to be criminal in intent or of suspicious origin.
9. Any condition or situation in which the Incident Commander deems a Fire Investigator is necessary.