

April 9, 2010

**CITY OF FERGUSON
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

Index as:

Arson Investigation

ARSON INVESTIGATION

430.00 PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish procedures to be used when the Ferguson Police Department is requested by the Ferguson Fire Department to assist in investigating an arson fire or any other incident where police assistance is requested by the fire agency.

430.01 POLICY

Because of the unique problems associated with arson investigations, the Ferguson Fire Department has provided training to members of their department that will determine when a fire is an arson or suspicious by its nature.

430.02 PROCEDURE

- A. The Ferguson Fire Department is the primary responder to all fires within the City of Ferguson.
 - 1. The Ferguson Police Department will assist on all fire calls within the city limits of Ferguson.
 - 2. Once the fire is extinguished, the Fire Department Investigator will determine cause.
 - 3. If the cause is an arson or suspicious in nature, then assistance will be requested.
 - 4. The Ferguson Fire Department will request the St. Louis County Bomb and Arsons Unit to respond to the scene for crime scene processing.
- B. A request for police investigative assistance (St. Louis County Bomb and Arson) will be received whenever the following situations exist:
 - 1. Arson / Suspected Arson Fire
 - 2. Explosion (Mechanical)
 - 3. Serious, critical or fatal fire injuries
 - 4. Asphyxiation (critical or fatal).

April 9, 2010

- C. Whenever a fire occurs and the nature is determined suspicious by the Ferguson Fire Department, it will be the responsibility of the Fire Department to contact the St. Louis County Bomb and Arson Unit to respond.
1. The on-duty police supervisor shall respond to the incident site and make contact with the respective Chief Fire Officer.
 2. The Police Supervisor will ascertain from the fire department officer the reason(s) why arson or any other crime is suspected. After verifying that a need for a police bomb and arson investigator does exist, the police supervisor shall then contact the on duty or on call detective and the Commander of the Uniform Division. The Chief of Police will be notified of the incident.
 3. If the scene is a movable object such as a vehicle, the bomb and arson investigator may have the vehicle towed and secured until he is available to process it. Under those circumstances, photos should be taken prior to towing and evidence should be collected that was left at the scene.
 4. The St. Louis County Bomb and Arson investigator(s) along with the assigned Ferguson Fire Department's investigator(s) and the Ferguson Police Detective or Officer shall work as a unit in order to best utilize the expertise of all agencies. All photography, collection of evidence and the associative arson investigation work shall be done by St. Louis County Bomb and Arson Unit unless requested otherwise.
 5. The police officer originally responding to the scene shall be responsible for preserving the scene until same is turned over to the arson investigation unit. The Ferguson Police Department will have the responsibility to write the original report and investigate the criminal incident if one is determined.
 6. After a preliminary investigation has been conducted a decision will be made by the St. Louis County Bomb and Arson Unit as to whether or not the services of the state fire marshal shall be utilized.

By order of:



COLONEL THOMAS JACKSON
Chief of Police

Distribution

All Department Personnel