



# PRINCE GEORGE FIRE AND EMS

**Section: Operations**

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**Section No: 2.6**

**Date:** March 1, 2016

**Title: Fire Investigations**

**Authorized By:**

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## **Purpose:**

The purpose of this procedure is for notification and response of qualified personnel to be utilized at incidents to determine fire cause, fire origin, and accurate documentation of an incident. This procedure will provide a complete and functional system that will provide a finished report that clearly documents a critical incidents events and outcomes.

## **I. General**

1. This procedure applies to all Fire and EMS first responders.
2. Fire and EMS responders will be provided training opportunities to the appropriate levels to effectively operate within the purpose of this policy.
3. The fire incident commander shall request, through the communications center, a primary fire investigator if;
  - a. Any incident fire cause and origin cannot be determined by the incident commander or their designee
  - b. Any incident involving county property
  - c. Any fire related death or injury requiring medical attention
  - d. Release of hazardous materials or explosives
  - e. Disruption of critical infrastructure affecting a mass of population
  - f. Suspected or known to be suspicious in nature
  - g. Industrial or commercial building with structural damage resulting from fire
  - h. Significant dollar loss of property
4. A list of primary fire investigators able to conduct fire investigations and critical reporting will be maintained by the Director of Fire and EMS or his designee. The list will be forwarded to the ECC and updated periodically.



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### II. Responsibilities

1. Incident Commander- The incident commander will determine the need for fire or incident cause and origin and insure that appropriate personnel have been notified. They shall provide available information, tools, or equipment (i.e. pumper, hand tools, and lighting) to the fire investigator and support the efforts of fire or incident cause and origin determination as needed.
2. Fire and EMS Captain- The on duty Fire and EMS Captain will begin incident documentation including an incident report, and/or conduct the complete fire or incident investigation.
3. Primary Fire Investigators- are defined as a person that has met the *NFPA 1033 Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator* and is approved for such given duties by the Director of Fire and EMS. The primary fire investigator shall conduct the cause and origin investigation and complete a detailed report; such report shall be provided to the Director of Fire and EMS or his designee within an acceptable time period.

### III. Notifications

1. The Incident commander will request that the on duty Fire and EMS Captain respond to the incident if not dispatched.
2. The on duty Fire and EMS Captain or incident commander will request for a primary fire investigator if such personnel is not on duty.
3. The Fire and EMS Captain or incident commander will request that notification be made to the police supervisor if the incident is suspicious, occurs with criminal intent, or involves explosives or hazardous materials.
4. The ECC will utilize primary and secondary numbers to contact the appropriate primary fire investigator(s).
5. The ECC will continue to make notifications until positive contact is made and an approved primary fire investigator is responding to the request.