

1220 Fire Investigations

PURPOSE:

To establish a standard operating procedure that would be used during the investigations of fire.

DEFINITIONS:

FIRE - means any fire or explosion potentially covered by N.J.S. 2C:17-1 et seq. or other criminal statutes.

F.I.T. - the words "Fire Investigation Team" shall be words to describe the unit of men who are designated to concentrate on fire investigations as an auxiliary assignment.

OPERATING STANDARD:

It is the responsibility of the Fire Official to make or cause to be made an investigation of each occurrence of fire within the Township of Florence and, when requested and where possible, assist any other jurisdiction with such investigations.

RESPONSE CRITERIA:

The Fire Official or his/her representative be notified of the following types of cases:

- All fires that directly or indirectly results in a death.
- All fires that directly or indirectly results in serious injury (Civil or firefighter)
- All fires that may be or are incendiary
- When the cause of any fire is not obviously determined by the fire officer in charge of the incident.
- All fires involving property, equipment, or structures owned or occupied by the government of Burlington County and/or the municipality of Florence.
- Multiple alarm fires that occur within Florence Township.
- Catastrophic fires or explosions regardless of weather the cause and origin are readily apparent
- All cases involving bombings or attempted facsimile bombs.
- There exists a fire and/or life safety hazard that the fire officer in charge believes to be causing an imminent hazard.
- In all other incidences ordered by a Fire Chief of Fire Commissioner.

NOTIFICATION TO THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT:

The lead investigator shall notify the Florence Township Police Department of the following types of cases;

- All fires which directly or indirectly results in death.
- All Fires which directly or indirectly results in serious bodily injury.
- All suspicious or deliberately set fires.
- All fires involving property, equipment or structures owned or occupied by the government of the County and/or the municipality of Florence Township.
- Catastrophic fires or explosions.
- Whenever the Fire Official has cause to believe that a fire is of suspicious nature.
- All cases involving bombings or attempted facsimile bombs.
- All cases where the Fire Official request assistance.

It would be the responsibility of the Police Department supervisors to activate their F.I.T. members if appropriate.

EQUIPMENT:

Once activated, any and all equipment needed by the Fire Official shall be relinquished to him as needed by the fire officer in charge.