SUBJECT: FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

PURPOSE: This standard operating guideline is intended to establish a procedure for the investigation of fires to determine their origin and cause.

SCOPE: This policy shall apply to all members of the Egg Harbor Fire Department.

PROCEDURE:
Investigation
A. Investigate all fires to determine their origin and cause.
B. Delay non-essential overhaul, salvage, and other incident operations that may damage evidence at the fire scene until clearance is given by the Fire Investigator.
C. Maintain custody of the fire scene until the initial fire scene investigation is complete.
D. Use the most current edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 921 – Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations as a reference during investigations.
E. Document the fire investigation in the Incident Report.

Department Fire Investigators
A. The Incident Commander is responsible for determining the point of origin and cause of a fire.
B. Call for a Department Fire Investigator as necessary if one is not on scene. If a Department Fire Investigator is unavailable, request the assistance from a mutual aid Department to conduct the fire investigation.

Outside Agency Assistance
A. The Wisconsin State Fire Marshal shall be requested to assist with the fire investigation in the following situations.
   a. Fires involving fatalities
   b. Fires with an estimated loss in excess of $1 million
   c. Suspected incendiary structure fires
B. Door County Sheriff Department shall be notified in the following situations.
   a. Fires involving fatalities
   b. Suspected incendiary fires