

Egg Harbor Fire Department and First Responders Standard Operating Guidelines

SUBJECT: FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

SOG 020

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