



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



538.05 ARSON INVESTIGATIONS 12-15-04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish procedures for the coordination of arson investigations with the Sacramento Fire Department.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Sacramento Police Department that arson investigations be coordinated with the Sacramento Fire Department.

PROCEDURE

A. GENERAL

1. Officers shall cause the Sacramento Fire Department (SFD) to be notified of all fires.
2. Officers should assist authorized fire personnel with reasonable requests (e.g. transporting/booking prisoners, preserving the scene, taking witness statements).

B. INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSIBILITY

1. SFD arson investigators are sworn California peace officers per 830.37 PC, and will assume the primary responsibility of all fire investigations, except those involving:
 - a) homicides.
 - b) stolen vehicles.
 - c) destructive devices as defined in 12301 PC.
 - d) other serious crimes as determined by the arson investigator.
2. In cases where SFD is the primary investigator, SFD personnel will collect and book evidence and be responsible for any arrests or reports.
3. In any case when SFD does not assume the primary responsibility for a fire, officers should request assistance with documenting fire damage.
4. In fires resulting from destructive devices, SPD Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) shall assume primary responsibility for the investigation.
5. If an officer arrests or detains a subject for arson, that officer shall cause the SFD to be notified and request it respond.