

BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

ARSON INVESTIGATION IN COOPERATION WITH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Reviewed by: Sergeant Clayton Arnold	Effective Date: October 9, 1989
Authorized by: Chief Dan Donath	Revision Date: September 18, 2019

PURPOSE

The policy of the Bloomington Police Department is to work closely and in cooperation with personnel of the Bloomington Fire Department in the investigation and case preparations of arson offenses. Arson investigations require a team effort and will be conducted in a spirit of cooperation.

PROCEDURE

Fire Department personnel shall have the responsibility of determining cause and origin at a fire scene. Fire Department investigators shall have primary control of the scene for the purpose of processing physical evidence. The Fire Department investigator may request assistance from the police department through the on-duty shift commander. The on-duty shift supervisor will contact C.I.D. and relay the request for assistance. When a detective trained as an Arson investigator responds, Crime Scene will also respond to document and collect evidence. Crime Scene detectives will collect evidence related to an arson investigation.

C.I.D. personnel shall respond when assigned and assist Fire Department investigators. Technical competence in fire investigation is not mandatory but good general investigative skills are.

Bloomington Police Department Crime Scene or Criminal Investigations Division personnel shall maintain physical custody of all fire scene related evidence and assume responsibility for the packaging, processing and transmittal of such evidence for laboratory examination as they determine necessary. All evidence will be collected according to Department Policy.

Interview and interrogations shall be conducted jointly, when possible, by C.I.D. personnel and fire investigators. The results of an arson investigation shall be jointly compiled by fire investigators and C.I.D. personnel for presentation to the State's Attorney's Office.

Should Bloomington Police Department Criminal Investigations Division Arson Investigator be requested outside of the city limits, Bloomington Fire Department Investigators will be accompanying the detective. All Arson investigations will be conducted the same using the same resources whether inside or outside the city.

Any problems that develop shall be forwarded to the Chief's Office as soon as reasonably possible for resolution. Questions of authority at the fire scene shall be resolved by Fire Department

personnel. Questions of authority during the subsequent investigative phases shall be resolved by Police Department personnel.