

1.10-12

**DAYTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER
ARSON INVESTIGATORS**



RICHARD S. BIEHL – DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OF POLICE

REV. 9/18

POLICY STATEMENT

The Dayton Fire Department (DFD) employs Arson investigators who are sworn officers with the Dayton Police Department. They are specially trained in fire and arson investigation procedures. At least one on-call investigator is available to respond to fire and arson related incidents 24-hours a day.

Arson investigators also adhere to Dayton Policy Policies and Procedures with regard to law enforcement duties and activities.

I. DEFINITIONS

Significant Burn Injury – any thermal or chemical burn that requires medical treatment beyond minor bandaging (e.g. second or third degree burns to the hands, arms, legs, back, torso, etc.).

Life Threatening Burn Injury – any thermal or chemical burn severe enough to create an immediate life risk (e.g. burns to the head, neck, face, airway, torso, etc.).

Incendiary Device – Any item used to initiate a fire or explosion (e.g. Molotov cocktail, explosives, fireworks, flammable liquids, torches, incendiary devices, lighters, etc.).

Arson Evidence – Any evidence related to intentionally set fires (e.g. flammable liquids and containers, incendiary devices, victim clothing, burnt items, etc.).

II. ARSON PROCEDURES

A. Arsons or Attempted Arson to Persons - Fires involving significant injuries or death will be a cooperative investigation between the Police Homicide Unit and the Fire Investigations Unit. If the fire victim has significant burn injuries, life threatening burn injuries or has died, the Homicide Unit will be the lead investigator while the Fire Investigators Unit will support as subject matter experts.

1. Arson to a person with an injury

- a. If the fire department is not on scene, the on scene police crew will request a fire response to investigate any potential fire hazard and contact an on-duty police supervisor to respond.
- b. The police supervisor will initiate a call out through Regional Dispatch Center (RDC) to Homicide and Fire Investigators advising if there is a fatality or life threatening injuries.
- c. The crime scene should be secured and evidence protected until their arrival.

2. Attempted arson to a person with a flammable substance

- a. If the fire department is not on scene, the on scene police crew will request a fire response to investigate any potential fire hazard and contact an on-duty police supervisor to respond.
- b. The police supervisor will initiate a call out through RDC to Homicide and Fire Investigators advising if there is a fatality or life threatening injuries.
- c. The crime scene should be secured and evidence protected until their arrival.

3. Exceptions – hot water scalds and burn injuries, cigarette burns, hot iron or other burns typically associated with child abuse and not a result of an intentionally set fire (refer to SVU Call-out).
- B. Arson or Attempted Arson to Buildings
1. If the fire department is not on scene, the on scene police crew will request a fire response.
 2. The crime scene should be secured and evidence protected until their arrival.
 3. DFD crews will follow DFD procedure for Fire Investigator responses.
- C. Arson or Attempted Arson to Vehicles
1. Vehicle Arson with a physical arrest - a police supervisor will initiate a call out through RDC to Fire Investigators.
 2. Vehicle arson with credible suspect information and physical evidence present at the scene - a police supervisor will initiate a call out through RDC to Fire Investigators.
 3. Vehicle arson with no suspect information and/or physical evidence the scene
 - a. On scene crews will secure the vehicle, tow and place a hold for the Fire Investigators
 - b. On scene crews will e-mail the DFD Fire Investigations Unit with details of the incident and include a DIBRS number. A DIBRS report must be completed with a narrative.
 - c. On scene crews will photograph the scene if possible and forward any photographs to the DFD Fire Investigations Unit.

III. ARSON INVESTIGATORS LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Arson Investigators will be mindful of their law enforcement duties in addition to Arson investigation and will be required to request a Dayton Police supervisor respond under the following circumstances:
1. Involvement in a Response to Aggression/Resistance
 2. Alleged Response to Aggression/Resistance
 3. Officer involved shooting
 4. Firearms discharge involving animals
 5. Accidental discharge of firearms
 6. Injuries prior to arrest
 7. Forced entry
- B. All other administrative investigations will be handled as outlined in DFD Policies and Procedures by their immediate supervisor.
- C. Arson investigators will adhere to Dayton Police Department Policies and Procedures as outlined in their initial training and will be responsible for ensuring that they are up to date through PowerDMS and Police Academy Training standards and firearms qualifications.

- D. Arson investigators will complete a limited information DIBRS incident report for all arson investigation calls they respond to. The report will simply be the information on the call with a narrative that they responded and are/or are not investigating. Arson Investigator investigations are reported through the Dayton Fire Department. No reference will be made to any supplementary reports in the initial incident report narrative.
- E. Arson investigators will operate under the same radio protocols as listed in General Order 1.07-1 - Communications.
 - 1. They will operate primarily on Dayton Police Channels East and West depending on their location at the time.
 - 2. When they commence a self-initiated contact, the dispatcher will be given the location and reason, and the dispatcher will enter the information.
 - 3. Arson investigator arriving on scene will properly identify themselves.
- F. Arson investigators will wear their authorized uniform and are required to wear their issued safety equipment.
 - 1. They will display their department issued badge when in uniform or when conducting investigations while in plain clothes.
 - 2. They will be required to wear their issued traffic vests when working outside of their vehicle on directing traffic on any traffic post for any length of time on surface streets to help maintain high visibility.

IV. DAYTON POLICE DEPARTMENT SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Dayton Police supervisors will be called in the above situations dependent upon where in the city the incident occurred. An investigation will be conducted as with any sworn officer. Investigations will be completed and forwarded on to the Arson Investigators immediate supervisors for final disposition.