

CITY OF BARSTOW

CALIFORNIA

POLICIES and PROCEDURES MANUAL:

POLICE

Subject: ARSON INVESTIGATION

INTRODUCTION

Crimes involving arson are becoming highly prevalent in modern society. The substantial increase in arson related property damage threatens the security and safety of the community and requires close cooperation between Barstow Police and Fire Departments to successfully investigate arson related activity.

To facilitate the exchange of information and to promote mutual assistance between the Police and Fire Departments, the Barstow Police Department has adopted the following investigative guidelines.

INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURE

1. Upon finding a fire that can be classed as Arson, the Fire Department Investigator shall notify the on-duty Watch Commander and make all requests for assistance to him.
2. The security of the arson scene shall be the primary responsibility of the Fire Department, unless there is imminent danger to fire personnel from hostile suspects. In such incidents, the Police Department will be called in immediately to provide tactical support to permit the Fire Department to perform its primary task.
3. The Fire Department and the Police Department shall each assign an Investigator to designated arson investigations and will attempt to keep the specific team on the case until it is successfully concluded.
 - a. Investigators shall work only with and through their counterpart at the Fire/Police Department whenever possible.
 - b. All evidence should normally be gathered by arson investigators.
 - c. All official comments to news media shall be made by the designated Fire Department representative.

Reference:

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