



ANAHEIM FIRE & RESCUE

FIRE INVESTIGATION REFERENCE GUIDE



FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT: ANAHEIM STATION 7
2222 E. BALL RD.
PHONE: 714-772-1776
EMAIL: FireInvestigation@anaheim.net

COMPANY OFFICER LEVEL FIRE INVESTIGATION

When a fire investigation is deemed at the level of a company officer, a fire report and pictures shall be uploaded into the department's NFIRS program.

The following is a list of company officer-level investigations, this list is not all-inclusive.

- Bush, Grass, or Tree Fires (no credible witness or suspect on scene)
- Cooking Fires (oven/range top, contained to kitchen, dining room, living room area)
- Dumpster or Trash Can Fires (exception: multiple fires near each other)
- Encampment Fires (no credible witness or suspect on scene)
- Room and Contents Fire (with known cause)
- Rubbish, or Trash Fires (no credible witness or suspect on scene)
- Vehicle Fires (deemed to be unintentional)

Company officer fire report templates can be accessed on the H Drive, in the Arson Folder.

If video surveillance cameras are present and you cannot access them, email the FIU with the incident number and address/location of the surveillance cameras. The FIU will follow up with the property owner.

If there is any question regarding the need for an investigator, the company officer is encouraged to contact the FIU by phone.

REQUESTING A FIRE INVESTIGATOR:

Fire Investigators are available 24 hours a day and can be contacted directly or through Metro Net. In the event no shift investigator is available, Metro Net will contact the on-call shift investigator or the Orange County Arson Task Force.

Personnel requesting a Fire Investigator shall remain on scene until released by a Fire Investigator. This is critical to maintain chain of custody, scene security, and preservation of evidence. When a Fire Investigator is requested, the scene shall be secured and cordoned off with fire line tape, with access restricted to all personnel and civilians. The Anaheim Police Department can assist with securing the scene, but the responsibility for scene security and chain of custody lies with fire personnel.

IMMEDIATE ARSON INVESTIGATION UNIT RESPONSE

The Incident Commander or company officer shall request a **Fire Investigator and Anaheim Police Department** through Metro Net as soon as possible when any of the following conditions occur:

A. Second Alarm or Greater Fires

B. Firefighter Injury from a Structure Fire Requiring Ambulance Transportation

C. Juvenile Fires

[Any fire believed to be set intentionally or due to fire play]

D. Explosions

[Drug manufacturing, butane honey oil (BHO), etc.]

E. Critical Burns Resulting from a Structure Fire

[OCEMS Burn Center Criteria]

F. Fire Fatalities

[Or probable fatalities resulting from fire. Does not include fires caused by traffic accidents, plane/helicopter incidents, or other transportation-related incidents.]

G. Significant Fire at High Profile Location

[Location that would result in public/media interest]

H. Arson Suspect on Scene

[Always ensure personnel safety first. Do not attempt to detain, request APD to detain the suspect. Do not question the suspect. Document any voluntary or spontaneous statements.]

I. Victim or Credible Witness on Scene

[Document name, DOB, address, phone number, driver's license number. If possible, keep the victim/witness on scene until the arrival of a fire investigator. If they insist on leaving before an investigator arrives, obtain a statement and document as much information as possible.]

J. Terrorism

[Any fire believed to be set or attempted to be set by an extremist group]

K. Fire in any Federal Building/Property

[Post office (fires deemed incendiary or suspicious, not accidental), ballot drop box, etc.]

L. Church or Place of Worship

[Fires deemed to be incendiary or suspicious, not accidental]

M. Fireworks

[Illegal fireworks or items suspected of being a destructive or explosive device]

[09/2023]