



SUBJECT: Fire Investigation Unit
TO: Members of the Department

This Order establishes department policy and member responsibilities for the following:

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55.1 FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This Order identifies the duties and responsibilities of the Fire Investigation Unit, as well as the related responsibilities of other department officers.

The department is mandated to provide for investigation of fires and explosions. Authority for the creation and administration of the Fire Investigation Unit is primarily contained in the "Michigan Fire Prevention Code," [MCL 29.6](#), [MCL 29.7](#) and [MCL 445.2011](#).

55.1.1. RESPONSIBILITIES AFFECTING DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Investigation of Fatal, Arson, Large Loss, Suspicious Fires, and Explosions

- A. The primary responsibility for origin and cause investigation of fatal, arson, large loss fires with a significant community impact, suspicious fires and explosions lies with members of the Fire Investigation Unit.
- B. Primary responsibility for follow-up arson and explosion investigations lies with the local law enforcement agency, including State Police posts, city, township, and county police agencies.
- C. The Fire Investigation Unit shall provide guidance and assistance to department members and local departments conducting follow-up arson and explosion investigations.

55.1.2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT

Fire and Explosion Investigation

- A. Primary responsibility for origin and cause investigation of fires and explosions.
- B. Provide guidance and assistance to department members and local departments conducting follow-up arson and explosion investigations.
- C. Fire Investigation Unit officers shall provide advice and counsel to members of the department on fire safety and fire and explosion investigations.

Fire Investigation Training

- A. The Fire Investigation Unit is the primary unit for assisting the Michigan State Police Training Division in the instruction and evaluation of the Basic and Advanced Fire Investigation schools.

55.2 REVISION RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility for the continuous review and revision of this Order lies with the Field Operations Bureau (Fire Investigation Unit), in cooperation with the Office of Professional Development.

DIRECTOR