

Lincoln County Fire and Rescue Association

Standard Operating Guideline (SOG)

Effective Date: May 1, 2012

Adopted Date: May 1, 2012

Number: 111

Title: Fire Marshal / Emergency Management Call Out

Purpose: This SOG is meant to define when the Fire Marshal's Office and Emergency Management Office should be contacted and/or called to the scene.

References: North Carolina Statutes (See NCGS 58-79-1 below) require that the Fire Chiefs determine the cause and origin of a fire. If a fire is clearly accidental, there is no need to call the Fire Marshal to investigate. However, the Incident Commander can always contact Fire Marshal to discuss incident or get advice on how to proceed. The Fire Marshal's Office should be used as a resource and support to the Fire Chief at anytime.

§ 58-79-1. Fires investigated; reports; records.

The Attorney General, through the State Bureau of Investigation, and the chief of the fire department, or chief of police where there is no chief of the fire department, in municipalities and towns, and the county fire marshal and the sheriff of the county and the chief of the rural fire department where such fire occurs outside of a municipality, are hereby authorized to investigate the cause, origin, and circumstances of every fire occurring in such municipalities or counties in which property has been destroyed or damaged, and shall specially make investigation whether the fire was the result of carelessness or design. A preliminary investigation shall be made by the chief of fire department or chief of police, where there is no chief of fire department in municipalities, and by the county fire marshal and the sheriff of the county or the chief of the rural fire department where such fire occurs outside of a municipality, and must be begun within three days, exclusive of Sunday, of the occurrence of the fire, and the Attorney General, through the State Bureau of Investigation, shall have the right to supervise and direct the investigation when he deems it expedient or necessary. The officer making the investigation of fires shall forthwith notify the Attorney General, and must within one week of the occurrence of the fire furnish to the Attorney General a written statement of all facts relating to the cause and origin of the fire, the kind, value and ownership of the property destroyed, and such other information as is called for by the forms provided by the Attorney General. Departments capable of submitting the required information by the utilization of computers and related equipment, by means of an approved format of standard punch cards, magnetic tapes or an approved telecommunications system, may do so in lieu of the submission of the written statement as provided for in this section. The Attorney General shall keep in his office a record of all reports submitted pursuant to this section. These reports shall at all times be open to public inspection. (1899, c. 58; 1901, c. 387; 1903, c. 719; Rev., s. 4818; C.S., s. 6074; 1943, c. 170; 1969, c. 894; 1977, c. 596, s. 1.)

Incident Commander should request Communication Center to Request the Fire Marshall on call to come to the scene when:

1. Property loss and damages (residential, industrial or commercial) that appear to be over \$100,000 require FMO response. This does not indicate that lower amounts do not warrant FMO response for investigation purposes, departments can still request the FMO for lower amounts
2. Any fire with death or serious injuries involved
3. Any suspicious fire involving a structure or vehicle (in this case, Sheriff's Office or SBI should also be contacted to begin investigation)
4. Any call involving airplane crashes
5. Fires involving schools, County buildings or churches
6. School bus wrecks involving injury or death
7. Illegal burns if the Fire Department is having problems with the individual

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The Fire Marshal should be called for the following incidents, in some cases further investigation may be conducted the next day or may not be needed:

1. Any fire with four or more departments called out or if the fire requires a second alarm to be sent
2. Hazardous materials spills
3. Crashes involving gasoline tankers, trains and other incidents where assistance is needed
4. Fire Code violations
5. Rescue operations if the situation requires the dispatch of a County Special Team
6. Anytime a Fire Department Vehicle is involved in a crash or accident
7. If EOC is opened

The Emergency Management on call staff should be advised of:

1. Searches
2. Drowning
3. Meth Labs
4. Hazardous materials spills
5. Bomb Threats
6. Storms – ice, tornados, snow
7. If there is a dispatch of a County Special Team