

SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

SOG #:	6.249	Effective Date:	7/14/2005
Title:	Fire Investigation Procedures (Arson)	# of pages:	1
Category:	Fire Ground Operations	Classification:	Red

1. **PURPOSE:** To inform all fire department members the procedures needed to be taken at the scene of a suspected arson fire.

2. **PROCEDURES:**

- Firefighters will be ever mindful as to whether forcible entry was necessary to gain access to a structure.
- Determine whether arson should be suspected.
- If arson is suspected officers at the scene will:
 - Call Police Department for detective.
 - Call the State Fire Marshal's Office.
- The Fire Department will block off the suspicious area and keep all unauthorized personnel out, especially the owner or tenant.
- If a call is placed to the Police Department or to the Fire Marshal's Office, no overhaul will take place until after the investigation is completed.
- The Fire Department, Police Department or the Fire Marshal's Office will investigate the fire scene together, not individually.
- The Police Department will call for a technician.
- When all three departments agree that the investigation is completed, overhaul will then take place.
- The Police Department will determine whether a guard should be posted.
- The Police Department will take evidence.
- The Police Department will do the criminal investigation keeping the Fire Department informed on the progress.
- When the Officer in Charge gives a news release, as far as the origin goes, it will be stated that the fire is under investigation or it is unknown.

3. **REFERENCES:**

- None

By Order Of:

Kevin W Guimond

Kevin W. Guimond
Fire Chief