

Fire investigation

New policy number: **399**
 Old instruction number: **ON102**
 Issue date: **17 June 2005**
 Reviewed as current: **1 September 2022**
 Owner: **Assistant Commissioner, Fire Safety**
 Responsible work team: **Fire Investigation Team**

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This latest revision of Policy number 399 has been undertaken to reflect the guidance given in the latest edition of Fire Standard for Fire Investigation (dated 01/04/2022) along with the NFCC Competency Framework for Fire Investigation and the Code of Practice for Investigators of Fires and Explosions for the Justice Systems in the UK. Consultation on the revised content has taken place with Central Operations, Operational Policy & Assurance and the Representative bodies.
- 1.2 The policy has been written to inform incident commanders of their role and responsibilities to undertake fire investigations and to explain the role of the fire investigation team, together with the assistance that can be provided by a fire investigation officer.
- 1.3 The methodology when undertaking any fire investigation is to identify the area of origin of the fire. This is followed by a determination of the cause, along with identifying the mechanism of how the ignition source and the item first ignited were brought together. A further assessment of how the fire developed and the how people involved behaved should be completed.
- 1.4 The effective collation and analysis of information obtained through the fire investigation process supports:
 - Improvements to firefighter safety.
 - Identification of risks to inform the LFB's prevention and protection activities as part of the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP)/ Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP).
 - Identification and sharing of learning to continually improve local and national fire investigation.
 - Criminal justice processes, where appropriate.
- 1.5 There are two levels of fire investigation; see appendix 3:
 - Tier 1
 - Tier 2
- 1.6 **Tier 1** fire investigations are defined as a routine or uncomplex fire investigation. These are usually undertaken by incident commanders with basic training, initially attending the fire scene to provide information required by the Secretary of State, through the national Incident Recording System (IRS).
- 1.7 **Tier 2** investigations are defined as complex fire and/or explosion incidents (non-terrorist) that may require a multi-agency approach and where the origin and cause are not easily established. These should be attended by a fire investigation officer with specific training, qualification, and experience.

2 Relevant legislation

- 2.1 The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 places a duty on fire and rescue services to protect life and property from fire. Part 6, Sections 45 to 48 of the Act empowers a fire and rescue service to obtain information and investigate fires and provides powers to investigate what caused a fire or why it progressed as it did. It is important that personnel are aware of the powers available to them to support their role in the investigative process.
- 2.2 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 clearly identifies a duty for multi-agency working in crime investigation and sets out a framework for the implementation of agreements such as memorandum of understanding between agencies. This Act also places the responsibility of investigating all suspicious or deliberate fires with the Senior police officer present in charge of the incident. Identifying the cause of a fire will usually be a necessary and important part of their investigation, but their primary aim is to identify those responsible for the offence(s).

- 2.3 Other articles of guidance that ensure that effective and efficient fire investigations are undertaken include:
- The Fire Standard for Fire Investigation.
 - NFCC Fire Investigation Competency Framework.
 - Code of Practice for Investigators of Fires and Explosions for the Criminal Justice Systems in the UK.

3 The Fire Investigation Team

- 3.1 LFB Fire Investigation Team is based at Dowgate Fire Station and follows the same watch system as operational fire stations.
- 3.2 In general, a fire investigation officer is an operational role and as such these fire investigators wear the same PPE as all operational staff.
- 3.3 However, there are instances where the fire investigator role may be carried out by a non-operational person. Non-operational fire investigation officers wear blue PPE, with a white helmet marked 'Fire Investigator'.

4 Mobilising

- 4.1 Each fire investigation vehicle has a call sign: **OK12, OK13, OK14, OK15, OK16** and **OK17**.
- 4.2 The fire investigation team will be ordered to attend the following incidents in accordance with Policy number 412 - Mobilising policy.
- 4.3 Pre-determined attendance (PDA):
- 4 pump fires, and above - one fire investigation officer.
 - Persons reported fire – one fire investigation officer.
 - Persons on fire – one fire investigation officer.
 - Firefighter emergency – two fire investigation officers and one scientific advisor.
 - Potential rekindling- two fire investigation officers and one scientific advisor.
 - Fatalities at fires - two fire investigation officers.
 - Fire survival guidance – one fire investigation officer.
- 4.4 The fire investigation team will be informed by London Operations Centre of:
- Explosions.
 - Fires involving hazardous substances, including cylinders.
 - On request for an ambulance from an incident where a fire related injury has occurred to a member of public.
 - Any fire that occurs on property owned or managed by the London Fire Commissioner.
- 4.5 The incident commander must request the attendance of the fire investigation team for an incident that involves any person who has suffered a serious fire related injury, even if it appears to be self-inflicted and/or the casualty has been removed to hospital.
- 4.6 It is the incident commander's responsibility to undertake a 'Tier 1' fire investigation. If the incident commander is unable to determine the cause of any fire or identifies that the investigation will be more complex, they should request, via Brigade Control, that the fire investigation team either contact them, or attend the scene.
- 4.7 The officer in charge of a fire station or the person in control of the premises, must inform and notify the fire investigation team, health & safety department and property services, of any fire that occurs on the station or other premises owned or managed by the London Fire

Commissioner. Not all Brigade premises are staffed 24/7, in such cases it is the responsibility of the incident commander of any Brigade attendance to inform the aforementioned parties.

- 4.8 When an incident commander requests the attendance of the fire investigation team, they should ensure the appliance mobile telephone is turned on and confirm the number with Brigade Control where they can be contacted at the incident.
- 4.9 When requesting the fire investigation team using the main scheme radio, a full word description i.e., 'fire investigation team' should be used. This is to avoid confusion with regard to other fire service resources such as fire rescue units.
- 4.10 The fire investigation officer assigned will either attend immediately or may contact the incident commander to discuss the incident/provide advice such as scene preservation, using either the contact number or via main scheme radio.
- 4.11 If the fire investigation officer has not immediately deployed, they will agree with the incident commander on one of the following:
 - Immediate attendance
 - Deferred attendance
 - Data collection only
 - Advice only
 - The need for a Brigade appliance to remain at the scene for continuity and power of entry.
- 4.12 If the incident commander is unable to determine the cause of a secondary fire, this must be discussed post incident with the fire investigation team. This enables constructive guidance to be given to aid future accurate recording. The cause of a fire must only be recorded as 'not known' by the incident commander with the agreement of a fire investigation officer; or if the fire investigation officer conducting an investigation has not entered a motive or cause in IMS by the time the station has completed their record. In this instance the motive should be recorded as "not known" and the main cause field as "pending FIT findings".
- 4.13 When an ambulance is in attendance prior to the arrival of LFB to any serious, fire related injury to a member of the public not covered by the above, the incident commander must request the fire investigation team and where possible and practical, gather information before the victim is removed to hospital.
- 4.14 If incident commanders are refused entry to an incident for the purposes of a 'Tier 1' fire investigation they must contact/request the attendance of the fire investigation team.
- 4.15 Incident commanders should **NOT** seize/sample items for fire investigation. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 gives power of entry and power to take samples for obtaining information and investigating fires, to authorised persons. An authorised person is a member of staff who has been issued a warrant card and this does not extend to an incident commander.
- 4.16 An incident commander does not need to request the attendance of the fire investigation team if there is evidence that any fire is deliberate, and assistance is not needed to determine the cause. The incident commander should ordinarily request the attendance of the police to all fatal or suspicious primary fires. The police are not normally required to attend suspicious secondary fires (except when consideration is being paid to trends and spate arson). In all cases the incident commander should complete the Report and Recording Form 1 (RRF1)- see section 6 below.
- 4.17 Any incident commander may request that the fire investigation team contacts them at any incident when they require support.

- 4.18 A minimum of one pumping appliance will be required to remain in attendance with the fire investigation officer to assist with the fire investigation, unless it is agreed that this is not required by the fire investigation officer in attendance.

5 The role of a fire investigation officer (FIO)

- 5.1 On arrival, the fire investigation officer should report to the incident commander. The fire investigation officer will assess the level of fire investigation resources and if additional fire investigation resources are required, they should request these resources via the incident commander.
- 5.2 The fire investigation officer may ask for:
- Additional fire investigation officers.
 - Fire investigation dog.
 - A Brigade scientific adviser or other specialist adviser to attend.
 - Assistance/equipment from fire crews to excavate the fire scene.
 - A senior fire safety officer.
 - Fire investigation officer reliefs at protracted incidents.
 - Specialist appliances as necessary.
 - The fire investigation officer to be released or returned.
- 5.3 Fire investigation officers may decide to wear alternative protective clothing when all firefighting operations are completed. This will be after consultation and agreement with the incident commander (if one is in attendance) and following a recorded risk assessment held within the fire investigation officer's contemporaneous notes.
- 5.4 Fire investigation officers will support the incident commander by working alongside senior fire safety officers, fire safety inspecting officers, police, forensic scientists and other investigators or stakeholders at a fire scene. Senior fire safety officers also provide a level of support to fire investigation officers and at larger incidents they will provide a link to the incident commander.
- 5.5 Fire investigation officers will investigate fires to establish the most likely cause, source of ignition, material first ignited and material responsible for development of the fire, as well as information on human factors and impairment by drugs and alcohol, which they will enter onto the Incident Management System (IMS).
- 5.6 The fire investigation officer will record this information in the fire investigation section of IMS when available.
- 5.7 If the fire investigation officer cannot establish the cause immediately and further investigation is required, for example following the involvement of a Brigade scientific adviser, the fire investigation officer will complete the FI section of IMS, when the information is available.
- 5.8 The incident commander remains responsible for ensuring the IMS record is completed promptly after the incident. Where a fire investigation officer is investigating the cause of a fire and has made no entries in the appropriate fields (i.e., in the fire information tab, cause/motive field), the motive is to be recorded as 'not known', the main cause as 'pending FI findings', the other fields set to 'not known' or 'no' as appropriate'. Please note that the investigation may be protracted, but other station based entry fields should be completed.
- 5.9 In the case of accidental fatal fires, fire investigation officers will liaise with Her Majesty's (HM) coroner's officer and prepare and submit a detailed report on behalf of the Brigade. Statements from Brigade personnel attending the scene of fatal fires may be requested by the fire investigation officer.

- 5.10 Following serious or significant incidents, personnel should complete contemporaneous notes of their actions and observations during the incident. Detailed information on contemporaneous notes, statements, and HM Coroner's Court procedure can be found on the FI web site: Hotwire > operations > fire investigation and in Policy number 215 - Gathering and recording of information for proceedings.

6 LFB/Police liaison at fires of deliberate or suspected deliberate origin

- 6.1 Once a fire has been identified as being of deliberate or suspected deliberate origin, the incident commander is to request the attendance of the police to record and investigate a possible crime scene and no further unnecessary disturbance of the scene should be made without consultation with the police. Incident commanders should be aware that once the fire has been extinguished, the police have authority for all activities at the scene of a crime. With police authorisation, a nonintrusive 'Tier 1' investigation of the scene can still be conducted.
- 6.2 As part of the liaison arrangements between the LFB and the police, the incident commander must make sure that the LFB liaison form report and recording form 1 (RRF1) is completed; see appendix 4. This form will provide the police with initial information for their investigation and is carried on all frontline appliances.
- 6.3 The RRF1 form needs to be completed at any fire which involves the following, even if a fire investigation officer is in attendance:
- Serious, life changing injury.
 - Fatality.
 - Any deliberate or suspected deliberate nature.
- 6.4 The RRF1 is in two parts. The police copy must be handed to the senior police officer attending the scene or handed in to the nearest police station, whilst the carbonated LFB copy is to be retained and used to complete the eFIT section of IMS and then filed in the RRF1 folder kept at fire stations.
- 6.5 The senior police officer will be responsible for conducting the investigation into the fire. Assistance may be requested from the incident commander and the fire investigation officer. This does not remove responsibility from the incident commander to make sure that the fire is extinguished.
- 6.6 Consideration should be given to scene preservation as highlighted in appendix 2.

7 Fire investigation dog (FID)

- 7.1 The LFB currently has two fire investigation dog teams which are available by either being on duty or on a recall system.
- 7.2 All requests for the fire investigation dog should be referred to the fire investigation team so that the suitability of the fire investigation dog's attendance can be discussed. Fire investigation dogs are deployed to confirm the use of, or to discount the use of ignitable substances. The fire investigation dog team can conduct a rapid search of premises and the surrounding area to detect the presence of their target substances (including ignitable substances, ignitable substance containers, contaminated clothing or other items linking suspects to the scene).
- 7.3 To enable the fire investigation dog handler to assess suitability for the dog to be deployed, requests for the fire investigation dog must be accompanied by a contact number at the incident.

- 7.4 It is the responsibility of the fire investigation dog handler to conduct a risk assessment and determine if it is appropriate to deploy their dog.
- 7.5 The fire investigation dog team will attend incidents where the following officers require the scene of the fire to be searched:
- Fire investigation officer
 - Police officers or crime scene examiners, (via duty National Inter-Agency Liaison Officer (NILO) if not a LFB incident).
- 7.6 The fire investigation dog may be deployed out of area as per the mutual assistance arrangements listed in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, Part 2. Any such requests must be made with the agreement of fire investigation management after consultation with the duty National Inter-Agency Liaison Officer and authorised via the duty Deputy Assistant Commissioner.

8 Fatal fires

- 8.1 Fire related deaths will be treated by the police as a sudden unexplained death which they have a duty to investigate and therefore have primacy of the subsequent investigation. Always consider whether the death is a work-related fatality resulting from an incident arising out of, or in connection with, work, as this will invoke the work-related death protocol and the need to notify the Health and Safety Executive.
- 8.2 A message must be sent to the LOC as soon as a fatality has been discovered within a fire scene or a person subsequently dies following being rescued and death has been declared by a suitably qualified medical practitioner, i.e., a LAS technician or helicopter emergency services doctor.
- 8.3 An FIO will be mobilised by the LOC once this message has been received to assist the IC and police with their investigation.
- 8.4 The message should state the gender and approximate age (if known) of the victim along with whether they have been rescued or left in situ.
- 8.5 If death has been declared by a LAS technician or doctor, then this must also be stated in the message as recognition of life extinct declared by the relevant medical practitioner.
- 8.6 If the victim has been left in situ, then the message should state that the victim has suffered injuries incompatible with life. This is when injuries are identified that are unequivocally associated with death and are listed in Policy number 980o - End of life care – immediate emergency care (IEC) - SOP. These are applicable to all age groups and are listed as:
- Decapitation - separation of the head from the body.
 - Brain destruction - massive head and brain injury.
 - The body below the waist is amputated - transecting the lumbar spine.
 - Massive torso injury - including decapitation.
 - Decomposition - where tissue damage indicates that the patient has been dead for some hours, days or longer.
 - Incineration - the presence of full thickness burns with charring of greater than 95% of the body surface.
 - Hypostasis - the pooling of blood in congested vessels in the dependent part of the body in the position in which it lies after death.
 - Rigor mortis - the stiffness occurring after death.
- 8.7 If there is any chance of resuscitation, then the survival of the victim must take priority and the casualty must be rescued and immediate emergency care commenced.

- 8.8 Once it has been determined that the victim has suffered injuries incompatible with life and is beyond medical aid, the body should not be moved. See Appendix 5.
- 8.9 It might be thought advantageous to remove a body so that operations are not impeded, but it is beneficial to the entire fire-death investigation if the body is left in place until it can be properly documented and examined. Every effort should be made to minimize access to the victim, including foot traffic in close proximity, hose lines, and equipment.
- 8.10 Only severe emergency conditions, such as imminent collapse of the building or uncontrollable fire in the vicinity, should force premature removal of the body. If the body has to be moved due to emergency considerations, a few photographs taken beforehand could make the difference between a successful investigation and failure.

9 Rekindling

- 9.1 For the purposes of this policy, a potential rekindling is defined as where a fire related incident has been closed down, and a further attendance to a fire is subsequently requested at the same address or within close proximity. The fire investigation team will be mobilised by Brigade Control to all potential rekindling incidents.
- 9.2 If the incident commander of an incident believes that there is any possibility that the cause of fire may be as a result of a rekindling, then the fire investigation must be contacted prior to the incident commander leaving the scene. Consideration should also be given to potential fire spread from nearby properties if the LFB have attended a fire at neighbouring addresses.

10 Fire investigation team, unavailable

- 10.1 There may be instances where the fire investigation team is not available; all fire investigation officers are already attending incidents or engaged in other work. At specific incidents where there are no fire investigation officers available, a senior fire safety officer will be mobilised to secure the fire scene. A fire investigation officer will be redeployed as soon as practically possible to relieve the senior fire safety officer. Specific incidents are as follows:
- Fatal fires.
 - Potential rekindlings.
 - Serious fire related firefighter injuries.
 - 12 pump fires and above.
- 10.2 In instances where no fire investigation officers are available to attend an incident it may be possible to speak to a fire investigation officer or one of the other fire investigation team members by contacting the fire investigation team at Dowgate Fire Station via the switchboard and entering extension 35700.
- 10.3 In exceptional circumstances it may be possible to request that a fire investigation officer in attendance at another incident contacts the incident commander via the appliance mobile. Advice may be given in order for a 'Tier 1' investigation to proceed.

11 Policies affected

Bibliography

11.1 This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Policy number 987 - Incident command – Organisation at incidents – NOG.
- Policy number 215 - Gathering and recording information for proceedings.
- Policy number 412 - Mobilising policy.
- Policy number 978 – Utilities and fuel.
- Policy number 977 - All incident considerations - NOG.
- Policy number 980o - End of life - immediate emergency care (IEC) – SOP.
- Policy number 803 - Search and rescue procedures within structures.

Appendix 1 - Fire investigation aide memoire

The fire investigation team will attend within the PDA¹:

- 4 pump fires, and above - one fire investigation officer.
- Persons reported fire – one fire investigation officer.
- Persons on fire – one fire investigation officer.
- Firefighter Emergency – two fire investigation officers and one scientific advisor.
- Potential rekindling- two fire investigation officers and one scientific advisor.
- Fatalities at fires - two fire investigation officers.
- Fire Survival Guidance – one fire investigation officer.

The fire investigation team will be informed of:

- Explosions.
- Fires involving hazardous substances, including cylinders.
- On request for an ambulance from an incident where a fire related injury has occurred to a member of public.
- Any fire that occurs on property owned or managed by the London Fire Commissioner.

A fire investigation officer will gather information from the incident and decide whether to mobilise or monitor the incident.

The incident commander must request or liaise with the fire investigation team when:

- They cannot, upon completion of a Tier 1 fire investigation find the cause for a primary fire
- They identify the investigation may be more complex
- For any fatality or person who has suffered a serious fire related injury, even if self-inflicted and/or the casualty has been removed to hospital
- A potential rekindling has occurred after a fire previously attended by the LFB
- They are refused entry to an incident for the purpose of fire investigation

When requesting the attendance of the fire investigation team:

Either:

- Provide a contact telephone number at the incident.
or:
- Monitor parent channel for a request for talk through by the mobilised fire investigation officer.
- When casualties are removed to hospital, the casualty details and which hospital they have been conveyed to should be recorded.
- If you become aware that the Brigade have attended the property to attend a separate incident, then consider this maybe a rekindling and the fire investigation team must be contacted prior to the incident commander leaving the scene.
- Incident commanders should **NOT** seize or sample items for fire investigation.
- If there is evidence that a fire is deliberate and assistance of the fire investigation team is not needed to determine the cause, the incident commander must request the attendance of the

¹ Subject to availability

police for fire investigation and complete the report and recording form 1 (RRF1). The police have primacy for all crime scenes and their subsequent investigation.

- All requests for the fire investigation dog should be referred to the fire investigation team so that the suitability of the FID's attendance can be discussed. Such situations could include; when you require the scene of the fire or surrounding area to be searched for the presence of an ignitable substance, an ignitable substance container, contaminated clothing or other items linking suspects to the scene.
- Fire investigation officers are lone workers. A minimum of one pumping appliance will be required to remain in attendance with the fire investigation officer to assist with the fire investigation, unless otherwise agreed with them at the scene.

Appendix 2 - Advice on scene preservation

1 On arrival

The list below is examples of indicators that crews should note on arrival:

- Which part of the building appeared first involved?
- The colour of the smoke and flames?
- How did the fire react when attacked?
- Were there any explosions?
- Unusual odours?
- Weather conditions?
- Was there a rapid fire spread?
- Were doors and windows open, closed or with any signs of a forced entry?
- Fire/Intruder alarms sounding?
- The behaviour of persons in and around the area?
- Any attempts to hinder the LFB response?
- Recognition of person(s) from previous incidents?

2 During initial firefighting

Good firefighting practice:

- If conditions permit, minimise firefighting personnel inside the affected area.
- Limit water damage - fine spray will help preserve the scene, but ensure fire is extinguished.
- Covering an area where it is suspected that an ignitable liquid has used with a clean plastic sheet.
- Limit numbers inside the scene and/or use alternative means of access to minimise disturbance to areas involved in the fire and maintain forensic continuity.
- Eliminate the cross contamination of fuel from refilling generators close to the scene.
- Note any items moved or removed.
- Note if anything looks out of place i.e., combustibles stacked/piled up, blocked routes, holes in walls and ceilings.
- Note any persons entering the scene for elimination purposes.

3 After initial firefighting

During and after firefighting operations:

- If you discover a person who you believe has injuries incompatible with life, but conditions make it impossible to confirm this observation, then the person must be removed to a safe area for Immediate Emergency Care (IEC).
- Only in instances where life has ceased beyond any doubt, should a person be left in situ, to preserve evidence.
- Record the locations and movements of all other persons involved.
- In all instances where a fire investigator officer or the police have been requested, crews should attempt to preserve as much evidence as practically possible and movement of items/debris should only take place to ensure all remaining fire/hotspots have been extinguished.
- If the use of a liquid accelerant is suspected, restrict the movement of personnel in and around the affected area.
- Do not start cutting away or turning over until directed to do so by a fire investigation officer.
- In line with Policy number 978 – Utilities and fuel, a safe isolation of utilities procedure should be carried out as directed by the incident commander. This involves operating the main switch controlling the electric/gas supply to the affected premises. To assist the fire Investigation, if

possible, the individual fuses breakers should be left in situ and only the main isolation switch should be used.

- Do not leave any items at the scene including brigade water bottles as it can be misleading to the police.

Further information is available on Hotwire > Operations > Fire Investigation.

Appendix 3 - Tier 1 and Tier 2 investigations

1. Tier 1 fire scene investigations are defined as routine fire investigations and are usually undertaken to provide information required by the Home Office (IMS). Tier 1 investigations are carried out by the LFB incident commander with basic training initially attending the fire scene. Incident commanders carrying out Tier 1 investigations should attempt to gather as much information as practically possible.
 - Information should be obtained from any witnesses, occupiers, or responsible persons.
 - Systems; automatic fire detection (AFD) control panels, closed circuit television (CCTV).
 - Physical evidence.
2. Incident commanders should ensure, that their Tier 1 investigations are not intrusive as, if the fire cause is unknown, a fire investigation officer may attend or provide advice.
3. If following a Tier 1 investigation the incident commander does not know the cause of the fire, then a fire investigation officer must be requested/contacted.
4. If during/following a Tier 1 investigation the incident commander believes the cause of a primary fire to be suspicious, then they must request the attendance of the police. Advice can always be sought from the fire investigation team.
5. The police are not normally required to attend secondary fires (except when consideration is being paid to trends and spate arson). In all cases the incident commander should complete the Report and Recording Form 1 (RRF1).
6. Every fire scene attended which requires an entry onto the incident management system (IMS) will be investigated to establish the cause and the information gathered then entered onto the IMS upon return to station.
7. Tier 2 fire scene investigations are defined as complex fire and/or explosion incidents (non-terrorist) where the origin and cause is not easily established.
8. In the case of fires and/or explosions involving fatal or serious injury, fires of interest determined by the organisation or those of a suspicious nature with the potential to enter the criminal justice system, a collaborative multi-agency team approach should be adopted. In such cases the team will be led by the police senior investigating officer supported by some or all of the following:
 - The forensic science service provider.
 - Forensic scientists from the private sector.
 - Fire and rescue service personnel.
 - Nominated police officers/crime scene managers including murder/major crime team/scene of crime officers.
 - Fire investigators appointed on behalf of the insurers.
 - Specialist contractors required to perform a particular task/role.
9. These should be investigated by a competent Tier 2 fire investigation officer with specific training and experience to undertake a more detailed or extensive fire scene investigation than required for Tier 1 investigations.

Appendix 4 – Deliberate Fire Reporting and Recording Form

LFB COPY 1 of 2 Inc Number _____ (RRF1)

LFB
LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

London Fire Brigade and Police Service Deliberate Fire Reporting and Recording Form

To be completed in ALL cases when a fire involves (Tick relevant BOXES)

Deliberate Fatality Serious Injury

Incident Address and Postcode:

LFB Officer in Charge			
Name	Date	Time	Contact No.
Station	Watch	Signature	

Fire Brigade Observations and Actions	
Reason for Deliberate Fire:	Property Insecure <input type="checkbox"/> No Apparent Accidental Ignition Source <input type="checkbox"/>
Observations:	
If Vehicle:	
Make	Model
Colour	VIN Number
Did any LFB Officer bleed at the scene?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Name	Station
Photos or Videos available?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Other forensic evidence observed/noted and actions to preserve:	
Hazard information for Police to include in their risk assessment:	

Security Details	
Was alarm sounding on arrival? If yes what type?	Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Intruder <input type="checkbox"/>
Other relevant security observations:	
Actions to gain access and/or ventilate:	
Doors/Windows Open/broken BEFORE LFB arrival:	
Did LFB FIU attend?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Police Name and No (If known)	

Service on Arrival (Tick Box)				
Electricity:	On <input type="checkbox"/>	Off <input type="checkbox"/>	No apparent supply <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>
Gas:	On <input type="checkbox"/>	Off <input type="checkbox"/>	No apparent supply <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>
Brigade Switched (Tick box)				
Electricity:	On <input type="checkbox"/>	Off <input type="checkbox"/>	No apparent supply <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>
Gas:	On <input type="checkbox"/>	Off <input type="checkbox"/>	No apparent supply <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>

FORM 1203

Appendix 5 - When to leave a body in situ

- 1 If the victim has been left in situ, then the message should state that the victim has suffered injuries incompatible with life. This is when injuries are identified that are unequivocally associated with death and are listed in Policy number 980o - End of life care – immediate emergency care (IEC) - SOP. These are applicable to all age groups and are listed as:
 - Decapitation – separation of the head from the body.
 - Brain destruction – massive head and brain injury.
 - The body below the waist is amputated - transecting the lumbar spine.
 - Massive torso injury- including decapitation.
 - Decomposition - where tissue damage indicates that the patient has been dead for some hours, days or longer.
 - Incineration - the presence of full thickness burns with charring of greater than 95% of the body surface.
 - Hypostasis - the pooling of blood in congested vessels in the dependent part of the body in the position in which it lies after death.
 - Rigor mortis - the stiffness occurring after death.
- 2 If there is any chance of resuscitation, then the survival of the victim must take priority and the casualty must be rescued and immediate emergency care commenced.
- 3 Once it has been determined that the victim has suffered injuries incompatible with life and is beyond medical aid, the body should not be moved.
- 4 It might be thought advantageous to remove a body so that operations are not impeded, but it is beneficial to the entire fire-death investigation if the body is left in place until it can be properly documented and examined. Every effort should be made to minimize access to the victim, including foot traffic in close proximity, hose lines, and equipment.
- 5 Only severe emergency conditions, such as imminent collapse of the building or uncontrollable fire in the vicinity, should force premature removal of the body. If the body has to be moved due to emergency considerations, a few photographs taken beforehand could make the difference between a successful investigation and failure.

Document history

Assessments

An equality, sustainability or health, safety and welfare impact assessment and/or a risk assessment was last completed on:

EIA	16/03/22	SDIA	L - 16/02/22	HSWIA	19/04/22	RA	19/04/22
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Audit trail

Listed below is a brief audit trail, detailing amendments made to this policy/procedure.

Page/para nos.	Brief description of change	Date
Page 3	New way of reporting – from Fire Reports Section to Information Management System (IMS). Change of form from FS/FIT/1 to Report and Recording Form 1 (RRF1).	17/08/2009
Throughout	The review date on this policy has been extended.	30/01/2013
Throughout	This policy has been updated with new inserts throughout. Please read to familiarise yourself with them.	22/04/2013
Throughout	This policy has been updated please read to familiarise yourself with the content.	06/09/2013
Page 8	EIA date has been added to this policy.	11/09/2013
Page 5 Throughout	Rekindling's & FIU not available added. Reviewed as current, policy updated throughout, please read to familiarise yourself with content.	17/07/2014
Page 8	Subject list and FOIA exemptions tables updated.	22/12/2014
Throughout	Top management review changes made, Fire Safety Regulation Department replaced with Fire Safety (Statutory and Community).	24/08/2015
Page 1	Owner title changed to reflect the changes in organisational structure and governance due to the abolition of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, now replaced with the London Fire Commissioner.	11/01/2019
Throughout	Cross references updated.	29/06/2022
Throughout	Reviewed as current with changes made and new content added throughout, please reread to familiarise yourself with the content.	01/09/2022
Page 4, para 4.16 Pages 7 & 8 Page 9 Page 16	The words 'Fatal or' added. New Section 8 - Fatal fires added. Policy numbers 980o and 803 added as additional reading. New Appendix 5 - When to leave a body in situ added.	18/04/2023
Throughout	References to cancelled PN769 updated.	15/03/2024

Subject list

You can find this policy under the following subjects.

Fire investigation	

Freedom of Information Act exemptions

This policy/procedure has been securely marked due to:

Considered by: (responsible work team)	FOIA exemption	Security marking classification