

Fire Prevention Division

Fire Investigation



Don MacAlpine

Deputy Fire Marshal

Fire Investigation

The Investigation section conducts Department Investigations involving fire Incidents, pre-employment background candidates, and professional standards violations. The Deputy Fire Marshal is the Department's Terrorism Liaison Officer-Coordinator with the Regional Terrorism Threat Assessment Center.

The mission of the Investigation section is to prevent fires by identifying the cause of a fire and neutralizing the threat of a similar incident repeating. All Department qualified Investigators are armed peace officers per California Penal Code section 830.37. Investigators handle fire incidents from ignition through conviction and are members in good standing with the California Conference of Arson Investigators.

Pre-Employment Background Investigations

Background Investigators are responsible for conducting all background investigations of Department candidates according to California P.O.S.T standards. Candidates are examined for qualifications and to assure they meet the Department's standard for legal, ethical and moral compliance. Background Investigators are members in good standing with the California Background Investigators Association.

Professional Standards Investigations

Any complaint received by or regarding a member of the Department may be assigned by the Fire Chief (or his designee) to the Investigation section. All professional standards investigations

conducted by the Investigation section are done according to the California P.O.S.T and California Firefighter Bill of Rights standards.

Investigation Team

The Investigation team is supervised by the Deputy Fire Marshal, Chief of Investigations. Also included in the team are Staff Investigators that maintain Monday through Friday, 40-hour per week, office hours. Scene Investigators are scheduled in 48-hour shifts to provide investigative services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Investigation team maintains a pool of qualified Reserve Investigators in the Suppression Division to draw from when additional help is needed on-scene or during follow-up.

How to Reach the Investigations Section

The Investigation section can be contacted directly at (559) 621-4181.

Obtaining Fire Reports

Copies of fire reports can be obtained through the Fire Prevention Division at Department headquarters located at 911 "H" Street, Fresno California 93721. The fee for Incident reports is \$3.00 per page and a hard copy narrative is 30 cents per page, payable by cash, check, or money order. The fee for a Fire Investigation report is \$303.00.

Reporting Arson Crimes

Citizens with information of an arson crime are urged to contact the Investigation section at (559) 621-4181.