



ABINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

OG - 600-201

FIREGROUND EMERGENCIES – FIRE & EXPLOSION INVESTIGATIONS

1.0 PURPOSE

This plan is to be utilized when it is necessary to investigate the cause and origin of an emergency/non-emergency related incident.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility to ensure that the above actions are taken in an appropriate manner are defined as indicated below:

- 2.1 Incident Commander/Office in Charge
- 2.2 Montgomery County Emergency Dispatch Services (EDS)
- 2.3 Abington Township fire Marshal

3.0 PROCEDURE

- 3.1 The Incident Commander or Officer in Charge activates this plan by contacting the EDS or other dispatch center in use, and request assistance of the Abington Township Fire Marshal's Office, if not already on scene.
- 3.2 The EDS or dispatch center in use will page or call the Fire Marshal and/or Assistant to the scene.
- 3.3 The Fire Marshal and/or his/her representative will activate the Cause & Origin Investigation Team.
- 3.4 The Incident Commander will isolate and secure the scene as is safe to do so.
- 3.5 The Cause & Origin (C&O) Investigation Team will act separately and independently from any other investigative team.
- 3.6 Once assembled, the C&O Investigation Team will, utilizing the scientific method;
 - 3.6.1 Identify the Need.
 - 3.6.2 Define the Problem.
 - 3.6.3 Collect Data.
 - 3.6.4 Analyze the Data.
 - 3.6.5 Develop a Hypothesis.
 - 3.6.6 Test the Hypothesis.
 - 3.6.7 Select Final Hypothesis.
 - 3.6.8 Develop a Report.

- 3.7 The C&O Investigation Team will analyze all data and develop a written report.

3.8 The Abington Township Fire Marshal's Office in conjunction with the C&O Investigation Team will develop and provide a report presentation for applicable parties.

3.9 The C&O Investigation Team will cooperate with any and all other agencies with authorization to investigate or be comprised of events involved.

4.0 C&O INVESTIGATION TEAM

4.1 The Cause & Origin Investigation Team shall have the authority to conduct a complete and thorough investigation. It will be assembled and operated under a unified command system and depending on the scope, consist of the following positions, others may be added as required by the circumstances;

4.1.1 Abington Township Fire Marshal or his/her designee.

4.1.2 Abington Township Detectives.

4.1.3 Montgomery County Detectives.

4.1.4 Pennsylvania State Police Fire Marshal.

5.0 REQUIRED NOTIFICATIONS

5.1 The Coroner and PA. State Police will be notified as soon as possible of all fatalities.

5.2 The PA. State Police will be notified of all loss over \$1,000,000.

6.0 RECORDS

6.1 All records, documents and evidence will be maintained by the Abington Township Fire Marshal's Office.

7.0 REFERENCES

7.1 All actions and procedures involved with a cause & origin investigation will be conducted utilizing guidelines established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and/or other applicable standards established following this plan.