

Augusta County Emergency Services Officers Association

*Augusta County Government Center
P.O. Box 590 – 18 Government Center Lane
Verona, Virginia 24482*



Fire-EMS Standard Operating Guideline

Section:	4 Fire Operational Information
Title:	Suspicious Fire Investigations
Date:	August, 2008 (Revised September 2013)

SUSPICIOUS FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

The Officer in charge of a fire incident is responsible for making sure a cause and origin investigation is completed. Personnel that are not trained as fire investigators should not attempt to conduct such an investigation. For assistance with fire investigations, the ACFR Duty Officer should be contacted. The ACFR Duty Officer and Augusta County Fire Chief shall be notified immediately when:

- There is a fatality of any nature on the fire scene.
- There is an injury involving fire rescue personnel or civilians.

To obtain the service of a State Police fire investigator, have the ECC call for you. Usually the investigator prefers to call the OIC before responding. It is advisable to refrain from using the terms "arson" and "arson investigators", just request a state fire investigator.

Any evidence or suspicious items shall be preserved by isolating the scene, and keeping unauthorized personnel away. Do not discuss any findings with anyone other than appropriate personnel. Secure the scene, allowing only authorized personnel to enter. It is recommended for someone to maintain security of the incident until the arrival of the investigator.