



ARSON REFERENCE GUIDE

ARSON OFFICE: (213) 893-9800 (Email – [lafdarson@lacity.org](mailto:lafd arson@lacity.org))
(213) 893-9850 (Inside line – not for dissemination)

A-UNIT 1 @ FS 17 (213) 485-9798 or (213) 485-9799 CELL: (213) 359-9221

A-UNIT 2 @ FS 78 (818) 762-6700 or (818) 762-6701 CELL: (213) 359-9752

REQUESTING AN ARSON INVESTIGATION UNIT

On-duty Investigators can be contacted directly or through Metro Fire Communication (MFC). In case that the on-duty Investigators are not available, “on-call” Investigators can be requested through MFC. The Incident Commander or member requesting an Arson Unit should be prepared to inform MFC or the Arson Unit of the nature of their request, i.e., assistance with origin and cause, fire fatality, suspect in custody, etc.

IMMEDIATE ARSON INVESTIGATION UNIT RESPONSE

The Incident Commander or member shall request, through (MFC), the immediate response of an Arson Investigation Unit when any of the following conditions exist:

- A. Major Emergency Fires (Automatic Dispatch)**
- B. Field Requests** - Intentional Fires or attempts of the same when, in the Incident Commander’s opinion, Arson Investigation assistance is needed.
- C. Juvenile Fires** - when, in the Incident Commander’s opinion, Arson Investigation assistance is needed.
 - a. Fires willfully and maliciously set by juveniles shall be classified as incendiary.

NOTE: Incidents resulting from immature judgment of juveniles (i.e., playing with fire) do not necessitate the immediate response of an Arson Unit. However, in the absence of an Arson Unit, the Incident Commanders shall collect the juvenile’s and parent information for documentation into the F-2 journal and the NFIRS report. This information shall be forwarded to the ACTS for documentation and delivery to the Juvenile Fire Coordinator.

- D. Explosion -**
EXCEPTION: Those explosions due to known accidental causes do not require immediate A-Unit response. However, the IC should make contact with an A-Unit prior to initiating overhaul to evaluate the need to respond.
- E. Critical Burns - (Fire Related) NOTE:** Critical Burns shall be defined as the following:
1. Any burns to the face, throat, or neck that indicates respiratory involvement.
 2. Any child with burn area of 10% or more with 2nd or 3rd degree burns.
 3. Any adult with burn area of 20% or more with 2nd or 3rd degree burns.
 4. Deep extensive burns to hands and/or feet.
- F. Fire Fatalities** – or probable fatalities resulting from fire.
- G. High Profile Fire Incidents** – Of public and/or media interest.
- H. Arson Suspect in Custody** – Your safety first and **always request LAPD.**
- I. Physical Evidence on Scene** – Specify type and location to the A-Unit assigned.
- J. Credible Witness on Scene with factual information** – Not Hearsay.
- K. Domestic Terrorism** – Focus is on Extremist / Eco Terrorist Groups.
- L. Fires on Church Property** – Those deemed suspicious, not accidental.

DOCUMENTATION / NFIRS

- Witness/Victim Information Needed: Name (First and Last), DOB, Phone Numbers (Home and Cell), Address (Corrected if needed) and Driver's License Number.
- Attempt to obtain as much info as possible. What did they see?
- NFIRS reports shall be completed by the end of your working shift. Note: The arson screen on the NFIRS report creates the first 2 pages of the Fire Investigation Report at the ACTS. The ACTS Investigator cannot complete their report without this NFIRS entry. This time frame is especially important when there is an arrest of a suspect, as filing may take place with the District Attorney within 48 hours.
- **PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ARSON SECTION DOES NOT PROCESS REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL RECORDS, i.e. 902M, EPCR REPORTS, RA JOURNAL ENTRIES, ETC.**

FOR COPIES OF MEDICAL RECORDS, PLEASE CONTACT THE EMS RECORDS SECTION AT (213) 978-3648.

FOR AMBULANCE BILLING INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT (888) 772-3203.