



CITY OF MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE



Arson Investigations

Eff. Date 04/06/2026

PURPOSE

Establish standard operating procedure (SOP) for Madison Police Department (MPD) response for arson related incidents.

PROCEDURE

Upon receiving any of the following calls for service, officers and a supervisor will be dispatched to the scene and/or victim's location:

1. Structure fire
2. Vehicle fire
3. Tampering with fire safety equipment

The supervisor at the scene shall work with MFD command to determine if additional investigative resources are needed from either/both MFD and/or MPD.

If MFD advises they are dispatching an MFD Fire Investigator to the scene, the scene supervisor shall notify the MPD Officer in Charge (OIC) and advise of the circumstances surrounding the incident. Scene supervisors should also advise the OIC of any requests by MFD for additional MPD resources, beyond scene management/control.

Whenever a fire incident results in loss of life, significant injury, or property damage, or the cause of the fire appears intentional, the following notification is required:

- During normal working hours, contact the Burglary Property Crimes Detective Lieutenant or other command staff of the district where the incident occurred.
- If outside normal working hours, contact the on-call Detective Lieutenant.

Detective resources will be assigned per normal case assignment.

Original SOP: 05/09/2018
(Revised: 01/03/2020, 01/24/2022, 04/06/2026)
(Reviewed only: 02/05/2024)