

Laurel Police Department – General Order
Chapter IV, Section 700, Order 704 – Arson Related Incidents
April 11, 2011

4 / 704.05 POLICY

It is the policy of this Department to investigate all incidents of arson related fatalities that occur in the City of Laurel.

4 / 704.10 PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to clarify the investigative responsibility in fatalities by fire or explosion and subsequent release of information to the media.

4 / 704.15 DEFINITIONS

None

4 / 407.20 PROCEDURES

A. NON-ARSON RELATED FATALITIES

1. When death occurs as a result of a non-arson related fire or explosion the Prince George's County Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshall, will be responsible for the investigation.
2. The initial reporting officer will be responsible for completing an incident report.
3. An investigator from the Special Operations Division will respond to the fire/explosion scene and if requested to do so will assist the Prince George's County Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshall, in the investigation
 - a. The assigned investigator shall complete a Commander's Report briefly describing the incident to include a statement that the investigation is being handled by the Prince George's County Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshall,
 - 1) A copy will be sent to the City of Laurel Public Information Office.
 - b. The assigned investigator will maintain contact with the Prince George's County Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshall, throughout the course of the investigation and will request a copy of the Fire Marshall's completed report for inclusion in the Department's file on the incident.

B. ARSON RELATED FATALITIES

1. The Prince George's County Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshall, shall determine if the cause of the fire or explosion is arson.
2. The Prince George's County Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshall, shall investigate those incidents not expected to result in death.
3. If death occurs, the Special Operations Division shall be responsible for the investigating the death.

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4. Press releases:

- a. The Prince George’s County Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshall, will handle the initial press release regarding the fire;
- b. The Department, in conjunction with the City of Laurel Public Information Office, will make any subsequent press releases regarding the homicide investigation; and
- c. The Prince George’s County Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshall, shall be afforded the opportunity to be present at all prearranged press conferences regarding deaths resulting from fire.

4 / 704.25 GOVERNING LEGISLATION AND REFERENCES

Maryland Code, Criminal Law Title 2. Homicide, Subtitle 2, Section 201

Maryland Code, Criminal Law Title 6. Crimes Against Property, Subtitle 1, Sec. 6-102, 6-1-3, and 6-107

4 / 704 ANNEX

None