

Ponderosa Fire Department



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Everyone Goes Home!

December 22, 2016

Ponderosa FD Guideline for Fire Investigations

Background

The Harris County Fire Marshal is attempting to improve fire investigation cause determination data related to TxFirs/NFirs by issuing the following “shall” statement. Some of this is related to state law where it states the county fire marshal shall investigate all fires within the unincorporated county.

Contact the on duty fire investigator via the Comcenter for:

- Any structure or vehicle fire
- Any fire that results in smoke inhalation, bodily injury, or death
- Any fire suspected to be intentionally set
- Any fire suspected to have been started by under 17 years of age
- Any fire suspected to involve fireworks
- Any significant outdoor fire where – (note the use of “or”)
 - Property damage over \$200; or
 - Unable to determine origin and cause; or
 - Texas Forest Service resources are requested; or
 - Suspicion of outdoor burn bans/outdoor burning rules violations; or
 - Vegetative fuels are involved AND at least 100 homes are directly threatened and there is some evacuation

Ponderosa FD Guidance

Use the information above and perform a radio contact to the Comcenter as soon as feasible to conduct a telephone discussion. Our position is to NOT have them respond unless absolutely necessary for events such as suspected arson, large fires, injury or other unusual incidents.

In the event an investigator or inspector decides to respond, the incident commander is to determine the time delay and decide whether or not to remain on scene. If the incident is minor in nature, the IC will inform the investigator the PFD is vacating the scene prior to their arrival. **The overall goal is to get our people home as soon as feasible.**

Related to getting our people home – **at any incident** where our resources remain on scene, the IC will place the respective apparatus in service at the scene as soon as feasible and to release non-essential people and apparatus. Leave the incident as soon as practical.

Questions may be directed to the Fire Chief.

Fred Windisch
Fire Chief