



Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety

Cabinet Secretary Jeff S. Sandy, CFE, CAMS
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OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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July 19, 2019

Dear Chief,

I just wanted to send out a reminder concerning requests for fire and explosion investigations by the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office Investigation Division. First and foremost, I want to thank you and your department for your continued service to the great people of West Virginia. You and your departments sacrifices do not go unnoticed.

Below you will find the criteria that we have for an emergency response and routine response to incidents. While I am sure that this does not cover every incident that may come up, it addresses the majority of them.

Level 1

1. Fatality fires and fires involving serious injury,
2. Major business/ industry/ high profile, high dollar loss fires of \$1,000,000 or more
3. Explosions
4. Incidents involving confirmed or suspected explosive or incendiary devices
5. Intentionally set fires with suspects or leads
6. The Field Deputy believes that, in their opinion, an immediate response is crucial to a successful resolution

Level 2

1. Vehicle fires (with no fatalities, injuries, suspects or leads)
2. Structure fires where there is no peripheral crime involved and no other exigent circumstances
3. Intentionally set fires without suspects or leads

Level 3

1. Totally destroyed structure fires with no fatalities, injuries, or suspects in custody
2. Rubbish fires (Will be referred to Natural Resources Police, DNR)
3. Wildland or grass fires (Will be referred to WV Division of Forestry)
4. Hay bale fires (Will be referred to WV Division of Forestry)

When you need to request an investigation of an incident please call the West Virginia Fire Marshal Hotline at 1-800-233-3473. If this is a Level 1 response you may have your dispatch call for

you or call the Hotline from the scene. If this is a Level 2 or Level 3 response, call the hotline yourself or, if no cell service, please wait until you return to your station and call the hotline. Do NOT call the WVSFM Investigations Division number at 304-558-2191 in order to request an investigation, all requests for investigations must go through the hotline.

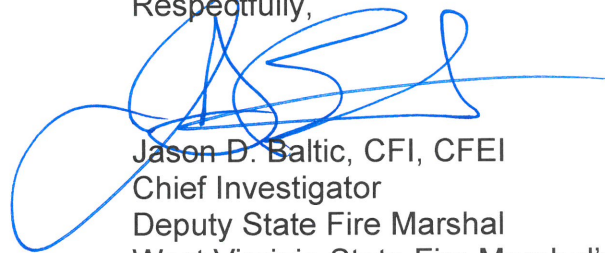
Please make sure to give a good address and directions. Also, please leave a name and contact number for a department designee and for the owner/occupant of the structure, land, vehicle, or other personal property.

If it meets the Level 1 criteria an investigator will contact you or the dispatch center as soon as possible and coordinate a response. During a Level 1 response, a fire department unit will need to keep the scene secure until the Investigator's arrival at the scene. For Level 2 and 3 criteria, an investigator will be contacting you or your department designee within a 5-day period. Please secure the scene with Fire Scene or Caution tape prior to leaving it.

Also, I have included a map that indicates the primary response areas for each investigator. If you do not know or have yet to meet your areas primary investigator, please contact me and we will make sure that a meeting is set up.

Should you have any questions, comments, or issues, please contact me at (304)558-2191 Ext 53208 or by email jason.d.baltic@wv.gov . Again, thank you for the services you provide to the communities and citizens of the great State of West Virginia. We look forward to working with you.

Respectfully,



Jason D. Baltic, CFI, CFEI
Chief Investigator
Deputy State Fire Marshal
West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office

- Alloway
- Ayersman
- Baltic
- Chastain
- England
- Hamrick
- Harms
- McFarland
- Rodes
- Sovastion
- Vacchio

