

Fire investigation

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This latest revision of Policy number 399 has been undertaken to reflect the guidance given in the latest edition of Fire Standard for Fire Investigation (review date 08/10/2025) along with the NFCC Competency Framework for Fire Investigation and the Code of Practice for Investigators of Fires and Explosions for the Justice Systems in the UK. Consultation on the revised content has taken place with Central Operations, Operational Policy & Assurance and the Representative bodies.
- 1.2 The policy has been written to inform incident commanders (ICs) of their role and responsibilities to undertake fire investigations and to explain the role of the fire investigation team (FIT), together with the assistance that can be provided by a fire investigation officer (FIO).
- 1.3 The methodology when undertaking any fire investigation is to identify the area of origin of the fire. This is followed by a determination of the cause, along with identifying the mechanism of how the ignition source and the item first ignited were brought together. A further assessment of how the fire developed and the how people involved behaved should be completed.
- 1.4 The effective collation and analysis of information obtained through the fire investigation process supports:
 - Improvements to firefighter safety.
 - Improvements to public safety.
 - Identification of risks to inform the LFB's prevention and protection activities as part of the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP)/ Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP).
 - Identification and sharing of learning to continually improve local and national fire investigation.
 - Criminal justice processes, where appropriate.
 - Coronial processes, where appropriate.
- 1.5 There are two levels of fire investigation; see appendix 3:
 - Tier 1
 - Tier 2
- 1.6 **Tier 1** fire investigations are defined as a routine or uncomplex fire investigation. These are usually undertaken by ICs with basic training, initially attending the fire scene to provide information required by the Secretary of State, through the national Incident Recording System (IRS).
- 1.7 **Tier 2** investigations are defined as complex fire and/ or explosion incidents (non-terrorist) that may require a multi-agency approach and where the origin and cause are not easily established. These should be attended by a FIO with specific training, qualifications, and experience.

2 Relevant legislation

- 2.1 The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 places a duty on fire and rescue services to protect life and property from fire. Part 6, Sections 45 to 48 of the Act empowers a fire and rescue service to obtain information and investigate fires and provides powers to investigate what caused a fire or why it progressed as it did. It is important that personnel are aware of the powers available to them to support their role in the investigative process.
- 2.2 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 clearly identifies a duty for multi-agency working in crime investigation and sets out a framework for the implementation of agreements such as memorandum of understanding between agencies. This Act also places the responsibility of

investigating all suspicious or deliberate fires with the Senior police officer present in charge of the incident. Identifying the cause of a fire will usually be a necessary and important part of their investigation, but their primary aim is to identify those responsible for the offence(s).

- 2.3 Other articles of guidance that ensure that effective and efficient fire investigations are undertaken include:
- The Fire Standard for Fire Investigation.
 - NFCC Fire Investigation Competency Framework.
 - Code of Practice for Investigators of Fires and Explosions for the Criminal Justice Systems in the UK.

3 The Fire Investigation Team

- 3.1 LFB FIT is based at Dowgate Fire Station and follows the same watch system as operational fire stations.
- 3.2 In general, a FIO is an operational role and as such they wear the same PPE as all operational staff.
- 3.3 However, there are instances where the fire investigator role may be carried out by a non-operational person. Non-operational FIOs wear a helmet marked 'Fire Investigator'.

4 Mobilising

- 4.1 Each fire investigation vehicle has a call sign: **OK12, OK13, OK14, OK15, OK16** and **OK17**.
- 4.2 The FIT will be ordered by the London Operations Centre to attend the following incidents in accordance with Policy number 412 - Mobilising policy.
- 4.3 Pre-determined attendance (PDA):
- 4 pump fires, and above - one FIO.
 - Persons reported fire – one FIO.
 - Persons on fire – one FIO.
 - Firefighter emergency – two FIOs and one scientific advisor (SA).
 - Potential rekindling/ continuation of burning - two FIOs and one SA.
 - Fatalities at fires - two FIOs.
 - Fire survival guidance – one FIO.
- 4.4 The fire investigation team will be informed by LOC of:
- Explosions.
 - Fires involving hazardous substances, including cylinders.
 - On request for an ambulance from an incident where a fire related injury has occurred to a member of public.
 - Any fire that occurs on property owned or managed by the London Fire Commissioner (LFC).
- 4.5 The IC must request the attendance of the FIT for an incident that involves any person who has suffered a serious fire related injury, even if it appears to be self-inflicted and/ or the casualty has been removed to hospital.
- 4.6 It is the ICs responsibility to undertake a 'Tier 1' fire investigation (see Appendix 4). If the IC is unable to determine the cause of any fire or identifies that the investigation will be more complex, they should request, via LOC, that the FIT either contact them, or attend the scene.
- 4.7 The officer in charge of a fire station or the person in control of the premises, must inform and notify the fire investigation team, health & safety department and property services, of any fire

that occurs on the station or other premises owned or managed by the LFC. Not all Brigade premises are staffed 24/7, in such cases it is the responsibility of the IC of any Brigade attendance to inform the aforementioned parties.

- 4.8 When an IC requests the attendance of the FIT, they should ensure the appliance mobile telephone is turned on and confirm the number with LOC where they can be contacted at the incident.
- 4.9 When requesting the FIT using the main scheme radio, a full word description i.e., 'fire investigation team' should be used. This is to avoid confusion with regard to other fire service resources such as fire rescue units.
- 4.10 The FIO assigned will either attend immediately or may contact the IC to discuss the incident/ provide advice such as scene preservation, using the contact number provided.
- 4.11 If the FIO has not immediately deployed, they will agree with the IC on one of the following:
 - Immediate attendance
 - Deferred attendance
 - Data collection only
 - Advice only
 - The need for a Brigade appliance to remain at the scene for scene preservation, continuity and power of entry.
- 4.12 If the IC is unable to determine the cause of a secondary fire, this must be discussed post incident with the FIT. This enables constructive guidance to be given to aid future accurate recording. The cause of a fire must only be recorded as 'not known' by the IC with the agreement of a FIO; or if the FIO conducting an investigation has not entered a motive or cause in IMS by the time the station has completed their record. In this instance the motive should be recorded as "not known" and the main cause field as "pending FIT findings".
- 4.13 When an ambulance is in attendance prior to the arrival of LFB to any serious, fire related injury to a member of the public not covered by the above, the IC must request the FIT and where possible and practical, gather information before the victim is removed to hospital.
- 4.14 If ICs are refused entry to an incident for the purposes of a 'Tier 1' fire investigation they must contact/ request the attendance of the FIT.
- 4.15 ICs should **NOT** seize/ sample items for fire investigation. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 gives power of entry and power to take samples for obtaining information and investigating fires, to authorised persons. An authorised person is a member of staff who has been issued a warrant card and this does not extend to an IC.
- 4.16 An IC does not need to request the attendance of the FIT if there is evidence that any fire is deliberate, and assistance is not needed to determine the cause. The IC should ordinarily request the attendance of the police to all fatal or suspicious primary fires. The police are not normally required to attend suspicious secondary fires (except when consideration is being paid to trends and spate arson). In all cases the IC should complete the Report and Recording Form 1 (RRF1)- see section 6 below.
- 4.17 Any IC may request that the FIT contacts them at any incident when they require support.
- 4.18 A minimum of one pumping appliance will be required to remain in attendance with the FIO to assist with the fire investigation, unless it is agreed that this is not required by the FIO in attendance.

5 The role of a fire investigation officer

- 5.1 On arrival, the FIO should report to the IC. The FIO will assess the level of fire investigation resources and if additional fire investigation resources are required, they should request these resources via the IC.
- 5.2 The FIO may ask for:
 - Additional FIOs.
 - Fire investigation search dog (FISD).
 - A Brigade SA or other specialist adviser to attend.
 - Assistance/ equipment from fire crews to excavate the fire scene.
 - A senior fire safety officer (SFSO).
 - FIO reliefs at protracted incidents.
 - Specialist appliances as necessary.
 - The FIO to be released or returned.
- 5.3 FIOs may decide to wear alternative protective clothing when all firefighting operations are completed. This will be after consultation and agreement with the IC (if one is in attendance) and following a recorded risk assessment held within the FIOs contemporaneous notes.
- 5.4 FIOs will support the IC by working alongside SFSOs, fire safety inspecting officers, police, forensic scientists and other investigators or stakeholders at a fire scene. SFSOs also provide a level of support to FIOs and at larger incidents they will provide a link to the IC.
- 5.5 FIOs will investigate fires to establish the most likely cause, source of ignition, material first ignited and material responsible for development of the fire, as well as information on human factors and impairment by drugs and alcohol, which they will enter onto the IMS.
- 5.6 The FIO will record this information in the fire investigation section of IMS when available.
- 5.7 If the FIO cannot establish the cause immediately and further investigation is required, for example following the involvement of a Brigade SA, the FIO will complete the FI section of IMS, when the information is available.
- 5.8 The IC remains responsible for ensuring the IMS record is completed promptly after the incident. Where a FIO is investigating the cause of a fire and has made no entries in the appropriate fields (i.e., in the fire information tab, cause/ motive field), the motive is to be recorded as 'not known', the main cause as 'pending FI findings', the other fields set to 'not known' or 'no' as appropriate'. Please note that the investigation may be protracted, but other station based entry fields should be completed.
- 5.9 In the case of accidental fatal fires, FIOs will liaise with His Majesty's (HM) Coroner's Officer and prepare and submit a detailed report on behalf of the Brigade. Statements from Brigade personnel attending the scene of fatal fires may be requested by the FIO.
- 5.10 Following serious or significant incidents, personnel should complete contemporaneous notes of their actions and observations during the incident. Detailed information on contemporaneous notes, statements, and HM Coroner's Court procedure can be found on the FI web site: Hotwire > Operations > Prevention and Protection > Fire Investigation and in Policy number 215 - Gathering and recording of information for proceedings.

6 LFB/ Police liaison at fires of deliberate or suspected deliberate origin

- 6.1 Once a fire has been identified as being of deliberate or suspected deliberate origin, the IC is to request the attendance of the police to record and investigate a possible crime scene and no further unnecessary disturbance of the scene should be made without consultation with the police. ICs should be aware that once the fire has been extinguished, the police have authority for all activities at the scene of a crime. With police authorisation, a nonintrusive 'Tier 1' investigation of the scene can still be conducted.
- 6.2 As part of the liaison arrangements between the LFB and the police, the IC must make sure that the LFB liaison form report and recording form 1 (RRF1) is completed; see appendix 6. This form will provide the police with initial information for their investigation and is carried on all frontline appliances.
- 6.3 The RRF1 form needs to be completed at any fire which involves the following, even if a FIO is in attendance:
- Serious, life changing injury.
 - Fatality.
 - Any deliberate or suspected deliberate nature.
- 6.4 The RRF1 is in two parts. The police copy must be handed to the senior police officer attending the scene or handed in to the nearest police station, whilst the carbonated LFB copy is to be retained and used to complete the eFIT section of IMS and then filed in the RRF1 folder kept at fire stations.
- 6.5 The senior police officer will be responsible for conducting the investigation into the fire. Assistance may be requested from the IC and the FIO. This does not remove responsibility from the IC to make sure that the fire is extinguished.
- 6.6 Consideration should be given to scene preservation as highlighted in appendix 2.

7 Fire investigation search dog

- 7.1 The LFB have fire investigation search dog (FISD) teams which are available by either being on duty or on a recall system.
- 7.2 All requests for the FISD should be referred to the FIT so that the suitability of the FISDs attendance can be discussed. FISDs are deployed to confirm the use of, or to discount the use of ignitable substances. The FISD team can conduct a rapid search of premises and the surrounding area to detect the presence of their target substances (including ignitable substances, ignitable substance containers, contaminated clothing or other items linking suspects to the scene).
- 7.3 To enable the FISD handler to assess suitability for the dog to be deployed, requests for the FISD must be accompanied by a contact number at the incident.
- 7.4 It is the responsibility of the FISD handler to conduct a risk assessment and determine if it is appropriate to deploy their dog.
- 7.5 The FISD team will attend incidents where the following officers require the scene of the fire to be searched:
- FIO
 - ICs to support Tie 1 investigations

- Police officers or crime scene examiners, (via duty National Inter-Agency Liaison Officer (NILO) if not a LFB incident).
- 7.6 The FISD may be deployed out of area as per the mutual assistance arrangements listed in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, Part 2. Any such requests must be made with the agreement of the FISD handler via FIT and in consultation with fire investigation management and authorised via the duty Deputy Assistant Commissioner.

8 Fatal fires

- 8.1 Fire related deaths will be treated by the police as a sudden unexplained death which they have a duty to investigate and therefore have primacy of the subsequent investigation. Always consider whether the death is a work-related fatality resulting from an incident arising out of, or in connection with, work, as this will invoke the work-related death protocol and the need to notify the Health and Safety Executive.
- 8.2 A message must be sent to the LOC as soon as a fatality has been discovered within a fire scene or a person subsequently dies following being rescued and death has been declared by a suitably qualified medical practitioner, i.e., a LAS technician or helicopter emergency services doctor.
- 8.3 An FIO will be mobilised by the LOC once this message has been received to assist the IC and police with their investigation.
- 8.4 The message should state the gender and approximate age (if known) of the victim along with whether they have been rescued or left in situ.
- 8.5 If death has been declared by a LAS technician or doctor, then this must also be stated in the message as recognition of life extinct declared by the relevant medical practitioner.
- 8.6 If the victim has been left in situ, then the message should state that the victim has suffered injuries incompatible with life. This is when injuries are identified that are unequivocally associated with death and are listed in ON0144 - End of life care. These are applicable to all age groups and are listed as:
- Full decapitation - where no remaining tissue is intact between torso and head.
 - Hemiporectomy – where the torso (neck to pelvis) is completely severed in two, there are no signs of life (no pulse and no breathing). This does not include an isolated amputated limb or multiple amputated limbs.
 - Full incineration to the torso – where the removal of the casualty from the fire compartment would cause the casualty body to separate.
 - Decomposition/ Decay - to the torso with no sign of life (no pulse and no breathing).
- 8.7 The default position for casualties within a fire compartment is they should be removed, for assessment by a clinician or firefighter not in firefighting PPE, as this provides a barrier to an effective primary survey.
- 8.8 If there is any chance of resuscitation, then the survival of the victim must take priority and the casualty must be rescued and immediate emergency care commenced.
- 8.9 Once it has been determined that the victim has suffered injuries incompatible with life and is beyond medical aid, the body should not be moved.
- 8.10 It might be thought advantageous to remove a body so that operations are not impeded, but it is beneficial to the entire fire-death investigation if the body is left in place until it can be properly documented and examined. Every effort should be made to minimize access to the victim, including foot traffic in close proximity, hose lines, and equipment.

- 8.11 Only severe emergency conditions, such as imminent collapse of the building or uncontrollable fire in the vicinity, should force premature removal of the body. If the body has to be moved due to emergency considerations, a few photographs taken beforehand could make the difference between a successful investigation and failure.

9 Rekindling/ continuation of burning

- 9.1 For the purposes of this policy, a potential rekindling/ continuation of burning is defined as where a fire related incident has been closed down, and a further attendance to a fire is subsequently requested at the same address or within close proximity. The FIT will be mobilised by LOC to all potential rekindling/ continuation of burning incidents.
- 9.2 If the IC of an incident believes that there is any possibility that the cause of fire may be as a result of a rekindling/ continuation of burning, then the FIT must be contacted prior to the IC leaving the scene. Consideration should also be given to potential fire spread from nearby properties if the LFB have attended a fire at neighbouring addresses.

10 Fire investigation team, unavailable

- 10.1 There may be instances where the FIT is not available; all FIOs are already attending incidents or engaged in other work. At specific incidents where there are no FIOs available, a SFSO will be mobilised to secure the fire scene. A FIO will be redeployed as soon as practically possible to relieve the SFSO. Specific incidents are as follows:
- Fatal fires.
 - Potential rekindlings/ continuation of burning.
 - Serious fire related firefighter injuries.
 - 12 pump fires and above.
- 10.2 In instances where no FIOs are available to attend an incident it may be possible to speak to a FIO or one of the other FIT members by contacting the FIT at Dowgate Fire Station via extension 35700.
- 10.3 In exceptional circumstances it may be possible to request that a FIO in attendance at another incident contacts the IC via the appliance mobile. Advice may be given in order for a 'Tier 1' investigation to proceed.

11 Policies affected

Bibliography

11.1 This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Policy number 987 - Incident command – Organisation at incidents – NOG.
- Policy number 215 - Gathering and recording information for proceedings.
- Policy number 412 - Mobilising policy.
- Policy number 978 – Utilities and fuel.
- Policy number 977 - All incident considerations - NOG.
- Operational note 0144 - End of life care.
- Operational note 0199 – Dealing with utility or fuel supplies at incident: Fires.

Appendix 1 - Fire investigation aide memoire

The fire investigation team (FIT) will attend within the PDA¹:

- 4 pump fires, and above - one fire investigation officer (FIO).
- Persons reported fire – one FIO.
- Persons on fire – one FIO.
- Firefighter Emergency – two FIOs and one scientific advisor (SA).
- Potential rekindling- two FIOs and one SA.
- Fatalities at fires - two FIOs.
- Fire Survival Guidance – one FIO.

The FIT will be informed of:

- Explosions.
- Fires involving hazardous substances, including cylinders.
- On request for an ambulance from an incident where a fire related injury has occurred to a member of public.
- Any fire that occurs on property owned or managed by the London Fire Commissioner.

A FIO will gather information from the incident and decide whether to mobilise or monitor the incident.

The incident commander (IC) must request or liaise with the FIT when:

- They cannot, upon completion of a Tier 1 fire investigation find the cause for a primary fire
- They identify the investigation may be more complex
- For any fatality or person who has suffered a serious fire related injury, even if self-inflicted and/or the casualty has been removed to hospital
- A potential rekindling/ continuation of burning has occurred after a fire previously attended by the LFB
- They are refused entry to an incident for the purpose of fire investigation

When requesting the attendance of the FIT:

- Provide a contact telephone number at the incident.
- When casualties are removed to hospital, the casualty details and which hospital they have been conveyed to should be recorded.
- If you become aware that the Brigade have attended the property to attend a separate incident, then consider this maybe a rekindling/ continuation of burning and the FIT must be contacted prior to the IC leaving the scene.
- ICs should **NOT** seize or sample items for fire investigation.
- If there is evidence that a fire is deliberate and assistance of the FIT is not needed to determine the cause, the IC must request the attendance of the police for fire investigation and complete the report and recording form 1 (RRF1). The police have primacy for all crime scenes and their subsequent investigation.
- All requests for the fire investigation search dog (FISD) should be referred to the FIT so that the suitability of the FISD's attendance can be discussed. Such situations could include; when you require the scene of the fire or surrounding area to be searched for the presence of an ignitable substance, an ignitable substance container, contaminated clothing or other items linking suspects to the scene.

¹ Subject to availability

- FIOs are lone workers. A minimum of one pumping appliance will be required to remain in attendance with the FIO to assist with the fire investigation, unless otherwise agreed with them at the scene.

Appendix 2 - Advice on scene preservation

1 On arrival

The list below is examples of indicators that crews should note on arrival:

- Which part of the building appeared first involved?
- The colour of the smoke and flames?
- How did the fire react when attacked?
- Were there any explosions?
- Unusual odours?
- Weather conditions?
- Was there a rapid fire spread?
- Were doors and windows open, closed or with any signs of a forced entry?
- Fire/ Intruder alarms sounding?
- The behaviour of persons in and around the area?
- Any attempts to hinder the LFB response?
- Recognition of person(s) from previous incidents?

2 During initial firefighting

Good firefighting practice:

- If conditions permit, minimise firefighting personnel inside the affected area.
- Limit water damage - fine spray will help preserve the scene, but ensure fire is extinguished.
- Covering an area where it is suspected that an ignitable liquid has used with a clean plastic sheet.
- Limit numbers inside the scene and/ or use alternative means of access to minimise disturbance to areas involved in the fire and maintain forensic continuity.
- Eliminate the cross contamination of fuel from refilling generators close to the scene.
- Note any items moved or removed.
- Note if anything looks out of place i.e., combustibles stacked/piled up, blocked routes, holes in walls and ceilings.
- Note any persons entering the scene for elimination purposes.

3 After initial firefighting

During and after firefighting operations:

- If you discover a person who has suffered full incineration, where their removal would cause the body to separate, the person should be left in situ
- The default position for casualties within a fire compartment is they should be removed for assessment by a clinician or firefighter not in firefighting PPE, as this provides a barrier to an effective primary survey.
- Record the locations and movements of all other persons involved.
- In all instances where a fire investigation officer (FIO) or the police have been requested, crews should attempt to preserve as much evidence as practically possible and movement of items/ debris should only take place to ensure all remaining fire/ hotspots have been extinguished.
- If the use of a liquid accelerant is suspected, restrict the movement of personnel in and around the affected area.
- Do not start cutting away or turning over until directed to do so by a FIO.
- In line with Operational note: 0199 – Dealing with utility or fuel supplies at an incident: Fires, isolation should be carried out as directed by the incident commander. This involves operating the main switch controlling the electric/ gas supply to the affected premises. To assist the fire

Investigation, if possible, the individual fuses breakers should be left in situ and only the main isolation switch should be used.

- Do not leave any items at the scene including brigade water bottles as it can be misleading to the police.

Further information is available on Hotwire > Operations > Prevention and Protection > Fire Investigation.

Appendix 3 - Tier 1 and Tier 2 investigations

1. Tier 1 fire scene investigations are defined as routine fire investigations and are usually undertaken to provide information required by the Home Office (IMS). Tier 1 investigations are carried out by the LFB incident commander (IC) with basic training initially attending the fire scene. ICs carrying out Tier 1 investigations should attempt to gather as much information as practically possible.
 - Information should be obtained from any witnesses, occupiers, or responsible persons.
 - Systems; automatic fire detection (AFD) control panels, closed circuit television (CCTV).
 - Physical evidence.
2. ICs should ensure, that their Tier 1 investigations are not intrusive as, if the fire cause is unknown, a fire investigation officer (FIO) may attend or provide advice.
3. If following a Tier 1 investigation the IC does not know the cause of the fire, then a FIO must be requested/ contacted.
4. If during/ following a Tier 1 investigation the IC believes the cause of a primary fire to be suspicious, then they must request the attendance of the police. Advice can always be sought from the FIT.
5. The police are not normally required to attend secondary fires (except when consideration is being paid to trends and spate arson). In all cases the IC should complete the Report and Recording Form 1 (RRF1).
6. Every fire scene attended which requires an entry onto the incident management system (IMS) will be investigated to establish the cause and the information gathered then entered onto the IMS upon return to station.
7. Tier 2 fire scene investigations are defined as complex fire and/ or explosion incidents (non-terrorist) where the origin and cause is not easily established.
8. In the case of fires and/ or explosions involving fatal or serious injury, fires of interest determined by the organisation or those of a suspicious nature with the potential to enter the criminal justice system, a collaborative multi-agency team approach should be adopted. In such cases the team will be led by the police senior investigating officer supported by some or all of the following:
 - The forensic science service provider.
 - Forensic scientists from the private sector.
 - Fire and rescue service personnel.
 - Nominated police officers/ crime scene managers including murder/ major crime team/ scene of crime officers.
 - Fire investigators appointed on behalf of the insurers.
 - Specialist contractors required to perform a particular task/ role.
9. These should be investigated by a competent Tier 2 FIO with specific training and experience to undertake a more detailed or extensive fire scene investigation than required for Tier 1 investigations.

Appendix 4 – Guidance on Tier 1 investigations

- 1 Incident Commanders (ICs) must conduct a Tier 1 investigation at every fire they attend;
 - (a) In many circumstances this will result in a conclusion that can then be recorded on IMS
 - (b) where an investigation progresses to Tier 2 any information gathered should be shared with the attending fire investigation officer (FIO)
- 2 A Tier 1 investigation should comprise of the following:
 - (a) Initial observations by the IC and attending FFs
 - (i) Doors and windows – where they open/ closed/ failed/ evidence of forced entry
 - (ii) Smoke – where was it coming from/ what colour was it/ quantity
 - (iii) Flame – what's alight/ location/ colour of flame
 - (iv) Alarms/ fixed installations – sounding/ operated/ info on AFA panel
 - (b) Information from witnesses
 - (i) Discovery of fire – how alerted/ what they saw/ what they did
 - (c) Burn patterns/ fire damage
 - (i) Visible burn patterns
 - (ii) Are there multiple areas of burning
 - (iii) Determination of area/ point of origin
 - (d) Potential ignition sources
 - (i) Identification of potential ignition sources that are present within the scene/ property
 - (ii) History of sources i.e. tumble dryer – any previous issues, was it in use, what setting, contents etc.
 - (e) Develop and test hypothesis
 - (i) Consider all of the information gathered to aid in developing potential hypothesis
 - (ii) Test each hypothesis by considering how/ if it would work to aid in discounting
 - (f) Select a final hypothesis (if in any doubt, contact FIT for guidance/ support).

Appendix 5 - Tier 1 support – utilisation of GoodSAM

- 1 FIT will often provide remote support/ guidance to ICs, this:
 - (a) Can support ICs to complete their Tier 1 investigation
 - (b) Allow FIT to assess the scene and determine if they need to attend and conduct a Tier 2 investigation

GoodSAM provides a facility for FIT to send a link to the appliance mobile, utilising this link ICs can then share images and video with FIT, allowing them to view the scene.

Appendix 6 – Deliberate Fire Reporting and Recording Form

LFB COPY 1 of 2 Inc Number _____ (RRF1)

LFB
LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

London Fire Brigade and Police Service Deliberate Fire Reporting and Recording Form

To be completed in ALL cases when a fire involves (Tick relevant BOXES)

Deliberate ☐ Fatality ☐ Serious Injury ☐

Incident Address and Postcode:

LFB Officer in Charge

Name	Date	Time	Contact No.
Station	Watch	Signature	

Fire Brigade Observations and Actions

Reason for Deliberate Fire: Property Insecure ☐ No Apparent Accidental Ignition Source ☐

Observations:

If Vehicle:

Make	Model	Reg No.
Colour	VIN Number	
Did any LFB Officer bleed at the scene?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Name	Station	Contact No.
Photos or Videos available?	Yes ☐	No ☐

Other forensic evidence observed/noted and actions to preserve:

Hazard information for Police to include in their risk assessment:

Security Details

Was alarm sounding on arrival? If yes what type? Fire ☐ Intruder ☐

Other relevant security observations:

Actions to gain access and/or ventilate:

Doors/Windows Open/broken BEFORE LFB arrival:

Did LFB FIU attend? Yes ☐ No ☐

Police Name and No (If known)

Service on Arrival (Tick Box)

Electricity:	On ☐	Off ☐	No apparent supply ☐	Unknown ☐
Gas:	On ☐	Off ☐	No apparent supply ☐	Unknown ☐
Brigade Switched (Tick box)				
Electricity:	On ☐	Off ☐	No apparent supply ☐	Unknown ☐
Gas:	On ☐	Off ☐	No apparent supply ☐	Unknown ☐

FORM 3203

Document history

Assessments

An equality, sustainability or health, safety and welfare impact assessment and/or a risk assessment was last completed on:

EIA	16/03/22	SDIA	L - 16/02/22	HSWIA	19/04/22	RA	19/04/22
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Audit trail

Listed below is a brief audit trail, detailing amendments made to this policy/procedure.

Page/para nos.	Brief description of change	Date
Throughout	Cross references updated.	29/06/2022
Throughout	Reviewed as current with changes made and new content added throughout, please reread to familiarise yourself with the content.	01/09/2022
Page 4, para 4.16 Pages 7 & 8 Page 9 Page 16	The words 'Fatal or' added. New Section 8 - Fatal fires added. Policy numbers 980o and 803 added as additional reading. New Appendix 5 - When to leave a body in situ added.	18/04/2023
Throughout	References to cancelled PN769 updated.	15/03/2024
Throughout	Reviewed as current with changes made and new content added throughout, please reread to familiarise yourself with the content.	28/09/2026

Subject list

You can find this policy under the following subjects.

Fire investigation	

Freedom of Information Act exemptions

This policy/procedure has been securely marked due to:

Considered by: (responsible work team)	FOIA exemption	Security marking classification