



Winters Police Department

John P. Miller, Chief of Police

702 Main Street, Winters, CA. 95694

GENERAL ORDER #17-06 ARSON AND UNLAWFUL FIRES INVESTIGATIONS

Date: May 26, 2017

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for suspicious arson and unlawful fires investigations.

II. POLICY

Due to the specialized training, expertise, and evidence storage and processing needs of arson and unlawful fires investigations, the Winters Police Department and Winters Fire Department shall work in cooperation to investigate any such incidents within the City of Winters.

III. PROCEDURE

The on-duty Winters Fire Department officer shall be contacted and requested to respond to the scene of any possible arson or unlawful fire, whether or not the fire has been extinguished prior to the requested response. Unlawful fires include any fire not for warming or cooking purposes and/or using unlawful fuels, including sawn lumber, debris, etc.

Upon determination the incident is the result of possible arson or is possibly unlawful and warranting prosecution, a crime report shall be generated by Winters Police Department personnel.

Winters Police Department personnel will identify and collect relevant evidence from the scene with the assistance of Winters Fire Department personnel. Winters Police Department personnel shall be responsible for preserving the evidence, maintaining the chain of custody of the evidence, and may be requested to process evidence or to ensure it is delivered to the appropriate authority to process.

Winters Police Department personnel and Winters Fire Department personnel shall conduct the investigation cooperatively including in the identifying and interviewing of potential suspects.

Upon determination of probable cause, Winters Police Department personnel shall be responsible for the arrest or filing of a criminal report with the Yolo County District Attorney's Office for prosecution of any suspects.

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