

NOTICE

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CHAPTER 1509

Investigation of Fires; Records and Reports

- 1509.01 Investigation of Fires
- 1509.02 Assistance by Other Departments
- 1509.03 Record Fires
- 1509.04 Reports

CROSS REFERENCE

1509.01 INVESTIGATION OF FIRES

The Chief of the Fire Department or the Director of the Bureau of Fire Prevention shall cause to be investigated the cause, origin, and circumstances of every fire occurring in the City involving loss of life or injury to person, or by which property has been destroyed or damaged, and to the extent possible shall determine whether the fire is the result of carelessness or design. Such investigations shall begin as soon as possible upon the occurrence of such a fire; and if it appears to the Chief or the Director of the Bureau of Fire Prevention or his designated investigator that such fire is of suspicious origin, he shall take charge immediately of the physical evidence, shall notify the proper authorities designated by law to pursue the investigation of such matters, and shall further cooperate with the authorities in the collection of evidence and in the prosecution of the case.

The Chief or the Director of the Bureau of Fire Prevention or their authorized representative shall have the authority to examine witnesses, compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books and papers, administer oaths, bear firearms, make arrests, and enter, for the purpose of examination, any building which has been destroyed or damaged by fire or explosion or which, in his opinion, is in danger from fire.

1509.02 ASSISTANCE BY OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The Director of Law and the Police Department, upon request of the Chief of the Fire Department or the Director of the Bureau of Fire Prevention, shall assist the Chief and the Director of that Bureau in the investigation of any fire which, in either of their opinions, is of suspicious origin.

1509.03 RECORD OF FIRES

The Director of the Bureau of Fire Prevention shall keep a record of all fires and of all the facts concerning the same, including statistics as to the extent of such fires and the damage caused thereby, and whether such losses were covered by insurance, and if so, in what amount. Such record shall be made daily from the reports made by the various officers of the Fire Department under the provisions of this Fire Prevention Code. All such records shall be public records under the laws of Ohio.

1509.04 REPORTS

Reports of the activities of the Fire Prevention Bureau shall be prepared by the Director of the Bureau of Fire Prevention and transmitted to the Chief of the Fire Department to the extent that the Chief may, from time to time, require. Such reports shall contain all proceedings under this Fire Prevention Code.

1509.05 SERVICE FEE CHARGE

If a fire was of incendiary origin, the fire chief shall initiate through the Director of Law, such action as is necessary to recover all cost of fire department operations and investigation from the person(s) responsible for setting said fire.