



<b>Policy Name:</b>	<b>FIRE CALLS</b>		
<b>Policy #:</b>	OP 4.23	<b>Last Updated:</b>	2022-04-07
<b>Issued By:</b>	COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU	<b>Approved By:</b>	SURREY POLICE BOARD
		<b>Review Frequency:</b>	AS REQUIRED

**RELATED POLICIES**

OP 4.34.2 *Arson*

**1. PURPOSE**

1.1. To ensure Members understand policy and procedure when responding to structural and vehicle fires.

**2. SCOPE**

2.1. This policy applies to all Members.

**3. POLICY**

3.1. Incidents involving fire are dangerous, potentially life threatening and can cause extensive property damage. The potential loss of life, injury and damage to public and private property requires the proper investigation of fire scenes in a thorough and professional manner.

**4. PROCEDURE**

4.1. Members responding to fire calls will:

- i. ensure that police vehicles do not obstruct Surrey Fire Service personnel or equipment or other emergency vehicles;
- ii. maintain a safe distance and perimeter to ensure the environment is not immediately dangerous to life and health due conditions causing concentration of toxic or explosive vapours or gases, including smoke;
- iii. unless redeployed by a Supervisor, remain on the scene and assist Surrey Fire Service personnel until no longer required;
- iv. provide vehicular and pedestrian traffic control where appropriate; and

- v. assist in maintaining the security of Surrey Fire Service equipment, if call-load and resource levels permit.

4.2. Members attending fire-related calls of a suspicious nature or any fire involving death, serious injuries, or resulting in significant property damage will:

- i. unless deemed safe by the Surrey Fire Service, not enter the scene unless utilizing Personal Protective Equipment to include NIOSH N95 disposable mask, filtered half mask or self-contained breathing apparatus, hooded Tyvek Suit, hard hat, boots (heat resistant, steel shank, steel toe) and puncture resistant gloves;
- ii. in the case of a death, ensure the Coroner is notified;
- iii. ensure the use that any human remains are undisturbed,
- iv. prevent access to the scene by non-essential personnel;
- v. identify and document the involvement of all emergency services members present;
- vi. request the attendance of a Supervisor;
- vii. remain at the scene to assist the Surrey Fire Service Investigator and report the findings of the Investigator;
- viii. request the attendance of Lower Mainland District Integrated Forensic Investigation Services where appropriate or required by the Surrey Fire Service;
- ix. seize any property exhibit required for the investigation;
- x. submit a comprehensive General Occurrence (GO) report that includes all relevant information from the Surrey Fire Service Investigator; and
- xi. route a copy of the report and notes to the Serious Crimes Unit.

4.3. A Supervisor responding to serious fire calls will:

- i. determine the need for additional units to assist in investigation or traffic control; and
- ii. notify the Duty Officer.

4.4. The Duty Officer will notify the Serious Crimes Unit Supervisor when:

- i. the fire is deemed an arson or is suspicious in nature and,
- ii. there are serious injuries and/or death; and/or
- iii. the damage caused by the fire is of significant value, or there are circumstances that justify notifying the Serious Crime Unit Supervisor, who in consultation with the Duty Officer will determine if a Serious Crime Unit Investigator is required to attend the scene (see OP 4.34.2 *Arson*).

## **APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS**

“Duty Officer” means the Frontline Policing Inspector.

“ISB” means Investigative Services Bureau.

“LMD IFIS” means Lower Mainland Integrated Forensic Investigative Services.

“Member” means a sworn Police Officer appointed by the Surrey Police Board.

“Supervisor” means a Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Inspector, Superintendent, Deputy Chief Constable, Chief Constable, and any other person acting in a Supervisory capacity who is accountable for a particular area or shift on behalf of SPS.

**APPENDIX B: REFERENCES**