



**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**MULTI-AGENCY FIRE INVESTIGATION PARTNERSHIP**

The objective of this multi-agency Fire Investigation partnership is to combine the skills and expertise from each agency to ensure that each fire investigation progresses smoothly from fire scene examination through the investigative process, resulting in successful prosecution of any person(s) responsible for committing the crime of Arson.

This is accomplished through sharing of information and resources, teamwork, coordination, cooperation, and a commitment from each participating agency to utilize the guidelines outlined in this partnership.

**Participating Agencies**

- Clifton Fire Department
- Lower Valley Fire District
- Palisade Fire Department
- Grand Junction Fire Department
- Mesa County Sheriff's Office
- Fruita Police Department
- Palisade Police Department
- Grand Junction Police Department

**Activation of a Suspicious Fire Investigation**

The following circumstances justify notification and/or activation of the Suspicious Fire Investigators Team, which include but are not limited to:

- Suspicious or undetermined fires or explosions resulting in critical injury or death to any person.
- Suspicious or undetermined fires or explosions resulting in the damage of personal property exceeding \$5,000 or more.
- Suspicious or undetermined fires or explosions resulting in the damage of commercial property exceeding \$25,000 or more.
- Suspicious or undetermined fires or explosions involving a church, school, government building, hate crime/racially biased crime.
- Suspicious or undetermined fires or explosions involving a series of fires that have been deemed potentially related.

(The above is NOT considered an exclusive list of circumstances, but should be utilized as a general guideline.)

### **Suspicious Fire Investigators Composition**

Mesa County Fire agencies' Fire Investigators with qualifications established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1033.

Mesa County law enforcement agencies' Sergeants and Investigators/Detectives with fire investigation training.

### **Suspicious Fire Notification and Investigation Process**


- Fire Command, upon addressing and identifying a suspicious fire, will notify the on-duty Patrol Supervisor in the jurisdiction where the fire occurred and the on-call Fire Investigator. The law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where the fire occurs will be responsible for the criminal investigation.
- The on-duty Patrol Supervisor will ensure that an Officer initiates a written report. The on-duty Patrol Supervisor will be responsible for securing the potential crime scene and/or any related evidence. Photographs of the crime scene, evidence collection and recording names of onlookers should be completed.
- As with any crime scene, on-duty officers are responsible for the identification and interview of any/all witnesses and the identification and potential statement from involved suspect(s).
- The responding Fire Investigator will notify the on-call Investigations Supervisor. The on-call Investigations Supervisor will determine the need for the call-out of a Law Enforcement Investigator(s)/Detective(s) based on the above guide lines and information provided. Together, the Fire Investigator and Investigations Supervisor can determine what resources are required to best address the needs of the investigation.
- Should a Law Enforcement Investigator/Detective respond to a suspicious fire with or without fire department personnel present, they will notify the appropriate jurisdiction Fire Investigator.
- Should both a Fire Investigator and a Law Enforcement Investigator/Detective respond to a fire scene, the Fire Investigator will be responsible for the collection of evidence and site investigation needed to identify cause and origin of the fire. The Law Enforcement Investigator/Detective will provide any assistance needed with search warrants, interviews and arrests.
- After the initial scene investigation, both the Fire Investigator and the Law Enforcement Investigator/Detective will continue with the investigation to case conclusion in full partnership.
- In cases where there is a suspicious fire and a Fire Investigator is not immediately available, Law Enforcement will secure and process the scene: taking photographs and collecting evidence other than evidence which might help determine the cause and origin of the fire. The Fire Investigator notified of the secured fire scene will make every effort to respond in a timely manner.

- Should circumstances not meet the above guide lines or necessitate both Investigators working the case, the case can be investigated solely by the Fire Investigator. Should the case require additional assistance a Law Enforcement Investigator/Detective will be made available.

On behalf of the Participating Agencies, the undersigned hereby acknowledges and agrees to the procedures set forth in this Memorandum of Agreement for a Multi-Agency Fire Investigation Partnership.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ken Watkins, Fire Chief  
 City of Grand Junction

5/20/14  
 Date

  
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 Kent Holsan, Fire Chief  
 Clifton Fire District

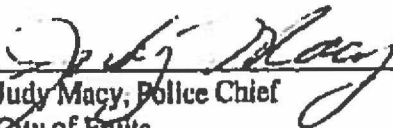
6-26-14  
 Date

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Richard Rupp, Fire Chief  
 Town of Palisade

5/22/14  
 Date

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Frank Cavaliere, Fire Chief  
 Lower Valley Fire District

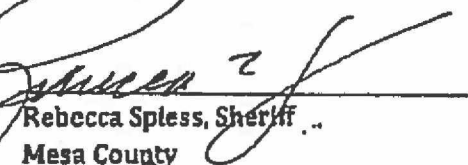
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 Date

  
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 Judy Macy, Police Chief  
 City of Fruita

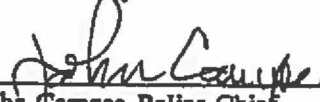
7/9/14  
 Date

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tony Erickson, Police Chief  
 Town of Palisade

07/13/14  
 Date

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rebecca Spless, Sheriff  
 Mesa County

7/14/14  
 Date

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 John Camper, Police Chief  
 City of Grand Junction

7-14-14  
 Date