First Responders: Fire Investigation, Arson Laws and You!

The firefighters lay the foundation for the scene examination. If you are cognizant and aware, you can play a vital role in preserving clues for the fire investigators.

Responding to the scene:

- Did you see a car speeding away from the scene of the fire?
- Did you observe any weather events that could explain the fire?
- Did you pass a utility truck working on the electric lines down the street on the way to the scene?
- Did you see a familiar person with bystanders that you noticed at another incident?
- Was access to the property made extremely difficult?

Additional information on the back.

For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.
During extinguishment:

Observation

- What did you observe on your 360?
- Did you see what looked like a possible incendiary device?
- Did you observe holes in the walls, ceiling or flooring that would help the fire spread?
- Was the appliance plugged in before you moved it?
- Were there obvious multiple fires throughout the property?
- Did you discover any tampering or impedance to building fire protection systems?
- Were combustibles too close to an operating heat source?

Tactics

- Did you implement any flow path controls?
- Did you apply a SLICERS fire attack?
- Did you use the proper hose stream? Hose stream management can positively affect the outcome of a fire investigation.

After the fire:

- Were any contents obviously missing or removed prior to the fire?
- Did you discover evidence of another crime (burglary, vandalism, homicide)?
- What did the occupants say about the location of origin or the cause of the fire?
- Do not overhaul prior to the arrival of the fire investigator.