

# 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. →

## 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.



FEMA



U.S. Fire Administration  
Working for a fire-safe America