

**MN State Fire Marshal Division
Fire Investigation Requests
June 2008 - Revised**

When the office of the State Fire Marshal was established in 1905, one of its primary functions was the investigation of the origin and cause of fires. Although Minnesota Statute 299F.04 assigns the responsibility for determining the origin and cause of fires to the local fire chief, that function remains a high priority for the Division to this day.

On Scene Response

When necessary due to call volume, requests for on-scene fire investigation assistance may be triaged as follows:

- Fatal Fires and Explosions. *Minnesota Statute 299F.04 requires that the State Fire Marshal be immediately notified of any fire resulting in a fatality.*
- Known or suspected arson fires.
- Fires and explosions resulting in serious or multiple injuries
- Large dollar loss fires and explosions.
- Fires occurring in occupancies inspected by the Division. (*e.g. health care facilities, K – 12 public schools, charter schools, hotels, motels and resorts, state owned correctional facilities, and county jails*)

When necessary due to the availability of the investigator normally assigned to a given territory, the Chief Investigator may assign an investigator from another territory to a request for on scene investigation assistance. Any such assignment is subject to the availability and work load of the investigation staff.

Phone Consultation

Investigators are also available for phone consultation with local authorities conducting their own investigations. This type of contact may prove valuable in several ways. State and local investigators will also be able to share information which could prove pertinent to investigations being conducted in other jurisdictions. In addition, state fire investigators will be able to:

- Provide advice on legal issues.
- Share experience gained from their investigation of similar fires.
- Offer suggestions on ruling out other possible causes.
- Confirm the conclusions reached by local investigators.

Requests for Investigation Assistance

To request a State Fire Marshal Investigator, contact the State Duty Officer at:

**Metro Area: 651-649-5451
Greater MN: 800-422-0798**