

	KENOSHA POLICE DEPARTMENT			
	POLICY AND PROCEDURE			
	41.9 Fires			
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I. POLICY

The basic police role at a fire is one of close cooperation and coordination with the Fire Department.

II. PROCEDURES

A. NOTIFICATION AND RESPONSE TO A FIRE SCENE

1. Officers will be notified to respond to a fire scene through dispatch, at the request of another officer, a supervisor or the fire department.
 - a. Officers will respond to the scene as appropriate to the situation. If it is an emergency situation, their response will be in conformity with Wisconsin State Statute 346.03- Applicability of rules of the road to authorized emergency vehicles.
2. If a police officer discovers a fire they shall immediately notify dispatch and request the Fire Department.

B. ENTERING STRUCTURES

1. Generally an officer should not enter a burning, smoking or smoldering structure. Rescue at a fire will usually be up to fire department personnel. They have the proper equipment, training and expertise.
 - a. If you decide to enter a burning, smoking or smoldering structure, it shall be for the sole purpose of preservation of human life.
 - b. Before entering a burning, smoking or smoldering structure, you must consider your safety and the safety of others that may follow you.
 - c. You must also consider that entering the structure may provide the necessary oxygen to cause the fire to increase or possibly cause an explosion.

C. POSITION AND COMMAND AT THE SCENE

1. Position
 - a. Traffic and Scene Control: The officers arriving at the scene will establish a perimeter and prevent non-essential personnel and vehicles from entering the fire scene. The patrol car may be placed in a suitable location to establish that perimeter but the officer must be mindful so not to obstruct fire equipment, personnel or other emergency vehicles.
 - b. The Patrol Supervisor shall assign as many officers as necessary to deal with the situation but will also consider the police obligations to the remainder of the city.

2. Command

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- a. As needed, the police supervisor in command at the fire scene shall establish a headquarters at the fire command center to direct police operations and coordinate activities with the Fire Department.
- b. Officers arriving at the scene are to report to such headquarters for orders.

D. POLICE RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE SCENE

1. Officers shall establish a perimeter and prevent non-essential personnel and/or spectators from entering that perimeter.
2. Remove any vehicles from within the lines that interfere with the movement of the fire department personnel or equipment.
3. Ensure that all hydrants within the perimeter are accessible.
4. Prevent vehicles from crossing fire hoses unless a member of the fire department specifically approves.
5. Control of Crowds
 - a. Crowds of people will inevitably collect at any fire. The officer in command at a fire will ensure that the crowd is kept at a safe distance.
 - b. The Fire Chief or the highest-ranking fire officer may authorize any person to cross into the perimeter.
6. General Cooperation with the Fire Department.
 - a. An officer at a fire scene will assist in all practicable ways in the preservation of life, the protection of property, and the prevention of crime.
 - b. Officers should not enter a burning building after the arrival of the fire department.
 - c. Officers should attempt to monitor the fire equipment and prevent any unauthorized person from entering it, removing property or causing damage.
 - d. Officers will render assistance to Emergency Medical Personnel, especially in handling unruly persons.
7. A police report will be completed in all situations where the fire is of a suspicious nature, when there are serious injuries, death or the incidents requires some type of documentation.

E. ARSON INVESTIGATION

1. If the fire appears to be suspicious in nature or a determination has been made that the fire was an act of arson the Detective Bureau shall be notified. The Detective Bureau working in conjunction with the fire department will direct the investigation.
 - a. Officers at the scene shall be alert for any persons acting suspiciously or otherwise indicating they may have been responsible for or may have knowledge of the fire.