



## Category 5C. Fire Investigation, Origin, and Cause Program

### **Summary**

The cause and origin of all fires within the departments jurisdiction are investigated under State of Illinois Statute, specifically the Fire Investigation Act (425 ILCS 25/) and Elk Grove Village Municipal Code 837 at the directions of the Fire Chief or his designee. The Illinois State Fire Marshalls Office (OSFM) certifies all members of the Department Fire Investigation Team (FIT). The Department Fire investigation team is assisted by the Elk Grove Village Police Department.

### **Operational Performance**

The Fire Investigation Team conducted six (6) Investigations from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Accidental	Total for Type: 5
Incendiary	Total for Type: 0
Undetermined	Total for Type: 1

Total for Group: 6

### **Outcome Metrics**

#### **# of Fires Investigated and Caused Determined:**

The Fire Investigation Team conducted six (6) Investigations from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Accidental	Total for Type: 5
Incendiary	Total for Type: 0
Undetermined	Total for Type: 1

Total for Group: 6

**Arson Arrest:** The Fire Investigation Team had zero (0) arson arrests from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Fire Investigation Team work closely with the Elk Grove Village Police Department, and Office of the State Fire Marshal.

**Relationships and Agreements with Local, State and Federal Agencies:** The Elk Grove Village Fire Department accepts and provides assistance and support to and from other agencies. The department has solid working relationships with the Village Police Department, Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 1, Cook County Sheriff's Office, Cook County Bomb Squad and The Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Fire Arms. When necessary, the team also works closely with insurance company testing facilities to complete necessary testing of hypothesis to prove or disprove theories of the scientific process. With the exception of MABAS, there are no written agreements with the other agencies because of an overlap of jurisdictions. The ATF and Cook County have the ability to work within our shared borders.

**Appropriate Staff and Training:** The FIT has eight (8) members; seven (7) are with the Fire



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Department and one (1) from the Village Police Department. All investigators are certified through the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshall (OSFM). Each member maintains his or her certification in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the OSFM. The range of the experience within the team varies depending on those assigned. New investigators shadow and assist on multiple cases prior to leading their first investigation. The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) mandates that each Fire Investigator is to receive 100 hours of continuing education every 4 years. The Department Fire Investigators receive annual continuing education training as required by attending annual conferences and seminars to improve their knowledge and maintain efficiencies in fire investigation practices. Fire Investigators may also improve their knowledge by attending ride a longs with veteran fire investigators. Continuing education will continue to be maintained by following requirements of the SOP Fire Investigator Continuing Education and Re-certification Requirements, Fire Inspector job description, and requirements by OSFM. By meeting, the state and AHJ requirements the Fire Investigation Team will continue to provide funds for investigator training in the annual budget. The fire department management analyst will evaluate the annual cost to maintain skills and education.

### **Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives**

Goal # 1 set forth by the strategic plan is to review the effectiveness of the Inspectional Services Division (ISD), and by second quarter of 2019, make the adjustments deemed necessary to increase the number of fire inspections completed in the community. Since the Fire Marshal is the FIT team leader and the FIT is grouped into ISD. The Fire Marshal will continue to evaluate the FIT, and report his findings to the Fire Chief along with his recommendations to better the FIT.

### **Training**

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) mandates that each Fire Investigator is to receive 100 hours of continuing education every 4 years. The Department Fire Investigators receive annual continuing education training as required by attending annual conferences and seminars to improve their knowledge and maintain efficiencies in fire investigation practices. Fire Investigators may also improve their knowledge by attending ride a longs with veteran fire investigators. Continuing education will continue to be maintained by following requirements of the SOP Fire Investigator Continuing Education and Re-certification Requirements, Fire Inspector job description, and requirements by OSFM. By meeting, the state and AHJ requirements the Fire Investigation Team will continue to provide funds for investigator training in the annual budget. The fire department management analyst will evaluate the annual cost to maintain skills and education.

### **Equipment**

The FIT is currently utilizing the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) software to conduct and maintain investigation and records. The Fire Investigation Team supplies the investigator with respiratory respirators. The Fire Investigation Team utilizes the Elk Grove Village Police Department evidence technicians for collection of evidence materials. FIT will be switching to ImageTrend software for conducting and maintaining investigations and records beginning May 2021

### **Staffing**

The FIT has six (6) members; in which only three (3) are active. All investigators are certified



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### **Program Improvement Plan**

The FIT plans to budget for additional investigators and equipment needs.