PURPOSE: To designate duties of the Cleveland Division of Police in arson incidents.

POLICY: The Division shall investigate fires that involve stolen vehicles and fires that result in fatalities. The Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) of the Cleveland Division of Fire shall investigate other arson-related fires and receive Division of Police assistance if requested.

PROCEDURE:

I. When basic patrol receives an assignment that involves suspected arson they shall immediately request FIU through the Communications Control Section (CCS).

II. Basic patrol shall complete the initial Record Management System (RMS) report of arson and the related offenses. At their discretion, FIU officers may assume this responsibility.

III. Basic patrol shall protect the crime scene until FIU officers arrive. When FIU officers are unavailable, a basic patrol supervisor shall request the Cleveland Division of Police Technical Section respond to the scene.

IV. If it is determined that the incident is the result of a bombing, or if an unexploded device is found, the Bomb Squad and Intelligence Unit shall be immediately notified through the CCS. The Intelligence Unit shall have follow-up investigative responsibility.