



## **MABAS Division 19**

### ***Unified Training Series***

### **Cause & Origin Team**



#### **When and How to Request:**

The MABAS 19 Cause & Origin team is authorized to assist any MABAS department with determining the cause and origin of a fire. An incident commander may request the MABAS 19 cause and origin team at their discretion by notifying MABAS 19 Dispatch Center on IFERN per box alarm request protocols (SOP 19-200).

The incident commander may wish to request the MABAS 19 cause and origin team for the following:

- Fires resulting in loss of life / severe injury
- Fires resulting in large monetary losses
- Suspicious fires
- Assistance to investigate the cause and origin of a fire (structure or otherwise)
- Collection and processing of evidence is necessary
- Interviewing witnesses
- Evidence photography



#### **Responsibilities of Requesting Agency**

- Notifying the team in a timely manner
  - ⇒ When possible; the team should be on the scene prior to completion of fire suppression activities
- Securing the fire scene before, during, and after the investigation
- Providing specialized resources or equipment as requested by the team

#### **How Can We Help?**

***Upon arrival at the scene and while fighting the fire, please note the following:***

- Extent and location of fire/smoke upon arrival
- Suspicious persons or vehicles in the area
- Condition of doors and windows
  - ⇒ Open or locked?
  - ⇒ Forced prior to our arrival?
- Unusual odors/smells
- Abnormal fire behavior/response to water application
  - ⇒ Flashbacks
  - ⇒ Re-ignition / Rekindles in same area
  - ⇒ Fire intensifies or spreads
- Heat intensity
- Fire patterns
- Obstacles to firefighters
- Furniture or other obstructions in doorways or hallways
- Doors blocked shut
- Holes in floor / other structural modifications

