

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 15

June 2, 2020

SUBJECT: ARSON SUSPECTED – REVISED; AND, ARSON INVESTIGATIONS
– REVISED

PURPOSE: This Order amends Department Manual Sections 4/242.50, *Arson Suspected*, and 4/242.53, *Arson Investigations*, to revise notification procedures regarding arson investigations.

PROCEDURE:

- I. **ARSON SUSPECTED – REVISED.** Department Manual Section 4/242.50, *Arson Suspected*, has been revised. Attached is the revised Department Manual section with the revisions indicated in italics.
- II. **ARSON INVESTIGATIONS – REVISED.** Department Manual Section 4/242.53, *Arson Investigations*, has been revised. Attached is the revised Department Manual section with the revisions indicated in italics.

AMENDMENTS: This Order amends Sections 4/242.50 and 4/242.53 of the Department Manual.

AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY: The Commanding Officer, Audit Division, shall review this directive and determine whether an audit or inspection shall be conducted in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.



MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police

Attachment

DISTRIBUTION "A"

**DEPARTMENT MANUAL
VOLUME IV
Revised by Special Order No.15, 2020**

242.50 ARSON SUSPECTED. When officers at the scene of a potential fire or extinguished fire have reason to suspect that *an arson-related crime has occurred, and the crime involves great bodily injury, and/or is related to an arson series, notifications shall be made to Criminal Conspiracy Section (CCS), Major Crimes Division (MCD), without delay.* Officers shall be guided by instructions received from CCS.

242.53 ARSON INVESTIGATIONS. When an arson is immediately associated with the commission of another crime, *the investigation for the additional crime shall be reviewed and assessed by Criminal Conspiracy Section (CCS), Major Crimes Division (MCD). Criminal Conspiracy Section shall assume the investigative responsibility or determine the appropriate investigative unit to investigate the case.*

The investigative unit assigned, as determined by CCS, shall be responsible for conducting the investigation. The Los Angeles Fire Department's Arson/Counter-Terrorism Section shall provide technical expertise regarding the origin of the fire.

Exception: *Robbery-Homicide Division shall have investigative responsibility for all arson homicides.*

Note: When an arson-related fraud does not involve another crime other than arson itself, the *Los Angeles Fire Department* will be responsible for conducting the investigation. Commercial Crimes Division shall provide investigative assistance to the *Los Angeles Fire Department* investigators.

Interviews of Arrestees. When an arrestee is to be interviewed regarding an arson-related offense, the investigating officer shall, whenever practicable, request the presence of a *Los Angeles Fire Department* arson investigator.

News Releases. News releases concerning arson-related crimes shall not be released to representatives of the news media until the contents have been approved by the appropriate personnel of both the *Los Angeles Fire and Police Departments (Department Manual Section 1/420.50).*