



MEET YOUR DETROIT FIRE DEPARTMENT

GET TO KNOW A DIVISION

FIRE INVESTIGATION DIVISION

▶ The Fire Investigation Division, formerly known as the Arson Division, has the task of investigating all fires that occur within the City of Detroit. The Fire Investigation Division aids in preventing and mitigating fire incidents within Detroit through investigations, education, enforcement, and awareness.

The Division is comprised of both Detroit Fire Department and Detroit Police Department personnel, forming a 24-member Task Force. This Task Force includes Fire investigators, Sergeants, Lieutenants and Captains.

The Division deals with many types of fires including accidental and intentionally set fires. The Task Force investigates intentional fires by gathering information and evidence in the form witness statements, video and other physical evidence collected at the scene to prosecute those individuals responsible.

Detroit Fire Investigators are all nationally certified in fire and explosion investigations. All members of the Task Force continue to take education courses, staying abreast of the ever-changing landscape of fire investigations as new information becomes available.



LEADERSHIP

Chief Dennis Richardson began his career at the Detroit Fire Department in February 1996. In 2001, then Firefighter Richardson accepted a position as

lieutenant in the Training Division. In 2003, after exposure to multiple parts of the fire service, he joined the Fire Investigation Division and was promoted through the ranks to Captain. In 2021, he was appointed to the position as Chief of the Fire Investigation Division.

Chief Richardson holds two degrees, in addition to firefighter I and II certifications, Emergency Medical Technician license, Hazmat Ops, Fire Officer I, II, and III, Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, and Fire and Explosion Investigator Instructor. He

has used the skills gained through his different experiences within the Department to develop and teach fire investigation training not only for Detroit, but other fire departments within and outside the state of Michigan.

MEET YOUR CANINE INVESTIGATORS

▶ Along with the human members, the Fire Investigation Division has two very special dog-joined teams.

Meet Campbell, a black Labrador retriever. Along with her human partner, Captain Omar Davidson, this canine team member helps investigate fires for the Detroit Fire Department's Fire Investigation Division.

The second dog member of the Division is Echo, a German shepherd. Echo, along with her handler, Lieutenant Christopher Kish, also works alongside human Division members to investigate fires.

Our canine teams receive certified training by the ATF (U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms) and the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers. The average dog's nose is 10,000 times more sensitive to odors — and Division canines are trained to sniff out tiny traces of substances that may have been used to start a fire. It is very important work. The dog partners live and ultimately retire in the homes of their human handlers.



CAMPBELL



ECHO



IT STARTS WITH OUR YOUTH

A crucial way to prevent fire-related tragedies is with education. This is especially true with children. One of the ways the Fire Investigation Division aims to educate is with the Youth Fire Setter (YFS) program.

If a child becomes fascinated with fire and begins to experiment with the tools such as matches, lighters, candles, etc., the Fire Safety Academy offers age-appropriate fire safety courses through the YFS program for children and their caregivers, to address and redirect harmful behaviors.

The YFS program has an educational section called the Youth Fire Setter Safety Academy, taught by YFS team members and other Detroit Fire Department personnel. Academies last approximately 3 to 5 hours on Saturdays at the Detroit Fire Department Regional Training Center.

Learn more by calling (313) 596-8897.

EMERGENCY OR NOT? WHEN TO CALL 9-1-1

During health crises, people often resort to emergency rooms, but not all issues necessitate costly ER care. Urgent care clinics and primary care appointments can be more efficient alternatives.



GO TO THE ER / CALL 9-1-1 FOR:

- Trouble breathing
- Chest pains
- Fainting
- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Sudden numbness or weakness
- Severe pain
- Serious injury



VISIT URGENT CARE IF:

- Unable to reach your doctor
- Need immediate care, but it's safe to wait a few hours
- Received instructions from your doctor to go to urgent care



CALL YOUR DOCTOR FOR:

- Cold
- Simple backache
- Sore throat
- Earache
- Non-urgent medical needs with a safe wait of a day or two

DON'T DELAY!

When you or a loved one begin to show signs of ill health, make an appointment with your doctor immediately. An early visit with a doctor can avoid an emergency room visit before it happens!



EVOLVING BEYOND THE ARSON SQUAD

▶ The crime of arson is no longer the sole focus or purpose of this division. Fire Investigation is the bridge between the fire incident and preventing other fires. With each investigation, important information is gained through the understanding of what allowed a fire to take place. With this information the Detroit Fire Department is better equipped to develop community-based fire prevention measures. When we understand why a fire happened, we can prevent the next fire. This is a very important facet of our community risk reduction initiatives.

Science and Technology

We use some of the most state-of-the-art equipment in the process of determining where and how a fire started. Within the last three years we have acquired a portable X-ray machine, a 3D Scanning System, and a 360 camera. These tools help our investigators process and analyze data and evidence.

Training and Experience

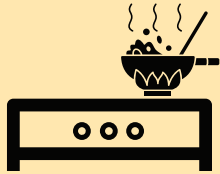
The Fire Investigation Division also holds basic and advanced fire investigation courses semi-annually for fire, police and private fire investigators throughout the state. Our courses are taught by nationally certified fire investigation instructors from within our division. Each course consists of over 40 hours of tested and practical hands on training. These classes are designed to get current and future fire investigators trained to the most up to date standards of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

The above are just a few of the ways that the Fire Investigation Division aids in preventing and mitigating fire incidents within The City of Detroit through investigations, education, enforcement, and awareness.

Stay connected and informed by following us on Facebook at [facebook.com/WhyDidItBurn](https://www.facebook.com/WhyDidItBurn).

WAYS TO MINIMIZE ACCIDENTAL FIRE INCIDENTS

NEVER
leave cooking
food unattended



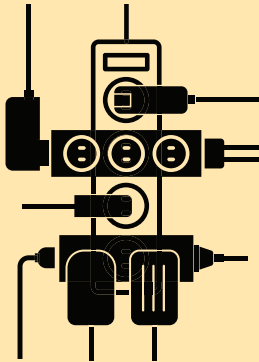
DO NOT
smoke in bed or in
a recliner or couch



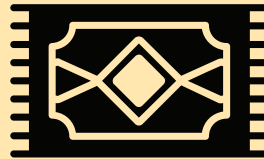
In the event of a
grease fire in a pot,
place a lid on it and
remove it from the
heat source



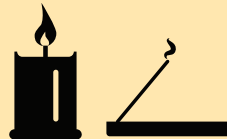
DO NOT
overload power
strips or outlets



NEVER
place extension cords
under clothing, rugs or
anything that can
pinch the cord



NEVER
leave candles or
incense unattended



DO NOT
smoke while on oxygen,
such as utilizing a nose
cannula or mask



DETROIT FIRE
Department

(313) 596-2920

(313) 224-4128

detroitmi.gov/fire

Detroit Public Safety
Headquarters
1301 3rd Street
Detroit, MI 48226

@DetroitFireDepartment

@DetroitFireDepartment

@DetroitFireDepartment

@DetroitFire

@DetroitFireDepartment

@detroit-fire-department

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Billing/Permits

(313) 596-2963

Complaints

(313) 596-2954,
9-1-1 (After Hours)

Plans And Exams

(313) 596-2788

Knox Box Info

(313) 596-2937

Freedom Of Information Act (F.O.I.A.) Requests

(313) 596-2948

Fire Reports/Inspections

(313) 596-2964

EMS Billing Questions

(888) 987-3605

EMS Medical Records

(313) 596-5180

Regional Training Center

(313) 237-2775

Community Relations Division

(313) 596-2959

WHOM TO
CONTACT
IN CASE OF

ARSON

Report Arson
(313) 628-2900

Main Office
(313) 596-2940

**Operations
Supervisor**
(313) 596-2944

Fire Reports
(313) 596-2948

Email
arsontips@detroitmi.gov

Online Form
<https://forms.scoutcms.com/Detroitfire>