



KING OF PRUSSIA VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY
170 ALLENDALE ROAD
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406
610-265-1063 Allendale Road Station
610-337-8230 West Beidler Road Station
610-265-3205 FAX
610-265-5635 Social Hall
email kpvc@pond.com
Web www.kpvfc.com

Standard Operating Guidelines

SOG NO.: KP-2-0021
SOG TITLE: FIRE ALARMS
ADOPTION DATE: 07/94
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Purpose: To establish procedures and guidelines for investigating and resolving automatic fire alarms; and to provide related Upper Merion Township Alarm Ordinance information.

A fire alarm incident can involve one or more of the following:

- a. smoke detector activation
- b. heat detector activation
- c. fire detector activation
- d. water flow alarm
- e. manual pull station
- f. residential smoke detector
- g. carbon monoxide detector
- h. other types of monitored alarms

Procedures:

1. In the event of a dispatch to an automatic alarm, the assigned units will respond under emergency conditions until a fire officer reduces the level of response.

2. Based upon the individual situation, the officer in charge can alter the response on the report of a police officer, security officer, maintenance personnel, etc. Reports from these individuals are to be used for initial size up information by the first arriving officer.
3. In occupied structures, the first-in officer is to interrogate persons on scene, preferably speaking to management personnel or someone with knowledge of the alarm system. The first arriving fire officer is to examine the on-site monitoring station before making any determination of the validity of the alarm.
4. In unoccupied structures, the first arriving officer shall ascertain as to the status of the subscriber. If no subscriber is responding, or if response time is greater than 15 minutes, the officer in charge shall make the determination as to whether forcible entry shall be made using the following criteria:
 - a. visible signs of fire or other trouble (broken pipes, etc.)
 - b. alarm history
 - c. other variable factors

In unoccupied structures where there is no subscriber response, forcible entry is to be considered only if the officer in charge deems necessary.

5. After it has been determined that the alarm is invalid, the officer in charge shall consult with the Upper Merion Police Department to determine if a citation is warranted.
6. In the case of persistent nuisance alarms, the Upper Merion Township Fire Marshal's office is to be notified and is to respond to the scene to alleviate the problem.
7. In the case of persistent nuisance alarms, the officer in charge may instruct the Montgomery County Emergency Communication Center to dispatch the alarm as an investigation for a period not to exceed 12 hours.

Refer to the Attached Upper Merion Township Alarm Ordinance.