FALSE ALARMS / AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARMS

PURPOSE

To establish procedures for incidents involving automatic alarms with no apparent emergency need.

PROCEDURE

1. **Complete size-up.**

2. **Determine from dispatch the type of alarm and area covered.**

3. **Contact on-site personnel. If the response is after hours, contact or have dispatch contact the responsible party and have them respond to the scene ASAP.**

4. **Determine building entry needs.**

    A. For "Water Flow" alarms and "Fire Alarm Activations" where a fire is evident or suspected or where sprinkler water is flowing – enter the building. If the building is vacant or unattended, force entry.

    B. For other types of alarm activations entry can be delayed until the responsible party arrives. If there is no responsible party consult with the Battalion Chief as needed to determine appropriate action.

    C. If additional non-trouble alarms are received prior to the responsible party arriving – enter or force entry into the building.

    D. Consider locating lock box.

5. **Establish entry, bring:**

    A. Forcible entry tools.

    B. Water extinguisher, hose pack, sprinkler and door stops.

    C. Search lines, SCBA, light sticks and hand lights.

6. **If forcible entry is required employ the least destructive method.**

7. **Use personnel tracking system when entering buildings for emergency or investigative purposes.**

8. **If fire is encountered, follow established Fire Attack procedures.**

9. **If no fire is located, determine the cause for the alarm and take corrective action if possible.**

10. **Unless a state of emergency has been declared do not leave from a scene prior to consulting with the on-duty supervisor:**

    A. Without putting the fire or alarm system back in service, or

    B. Posting a fire watch, or

    C. Releasing the scene to a competent responsible party.

11. **Notify Fire Prevention via email of problematic false alarms and actions taken.**

12. **The Supervisors may authorize a reduced response to specific locations after two confirmed false alarms have been received in any single shift.**

2016 Marion & Polk County Fire Rescue Protocols