



Sonoma County

Fire Investigation Task Force

Fire Prevention Officers Association

The Sonoma County Fire Investigation Task Force (FITF) is a committee that reports to the Sonoma County Fire Prevention Officers (FPO) group. FPO's report to the Chiefs

PURPOSE:

Section 1.1. To provide a pool of trained fire investigators and equipment to assist the fire and law enforcement agencies in Sonoma County with fire investigations that are beyond their capabilities.

Section 1.2. To coordinate with state, county and local fire agencies and the District Attorney's Office in establishing a forum for the sharing of information between participating agencies.

Section 1.3. To provide investigative training for participating jurisdictions within Sonoma County.

Members:

Roster: 61

56 on REDCOM alpha/numeric (phone) text dispatch

Active911: 26

How did (FITF) we do in 2018 and now:

Call Outs in 2018: 1

Call Outs in 2019: 4 so far (Share the workload)

Jan. 3 Structure fire Healdsburg

Feb. 20 Structure fire, Fatality, West Santa Rosa

Mar. 17 Structure fire, Petaluma

Apr. 20 Structure fire, Cloverdale

What do we (FITF) need from you?

To support your crews by encouraging and allow them to:

1. Attend FITF meetings
2. FITF Trainings
3. BC to request FITF (not fire prev. SoCo) call outs thru REDCOM. See hand out.
4. Encourage personnel to become fire investigators
5. But most important to provide opportunities to get their task book sign off
6. Provide training using Call Outs. Very important for Trainees to meet fire investigator requirements
7. Pay for membership on Active911 ~\$11

2019 Goals:

- 1) [More local training.](#)
- 2) [Crime Scene and Evidence collection – scenario-based training.](#)
- 3) [Electrical Fire Investigation training.](#)
- 4) [Origin and Cause Refresher training.](#)
- 5) [Agency Drone \(UAV\) Usage and Policy presentation.](#)
- 6) [832 PC Firearms Refresher training.](#)



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How to request Fire Investigation Task Force (FITF) to the scene through REDCOM

Provide REDCOM (via phone or control channel) with the following information:

1. IC, BC call REDCOM and request the Fire Investigation Task Force (FITF) to be toned out. (not the on call fire prevention officer)
2. Provide REDCOM with name and call back number.
3. Incident Location
4. Type of fire/incident – Veg, structure residential/commercial, etc.
5. Number of Investigators needed
6. Type of Response:
 - a. **Immediate Response** – Fatal homicide, large dollar loss, overhaul cannot be delayed. Preservation of evidence is required. FITF is available for call out 24 hours a day 7 days a week 365 days a year. However It is preferred that most fire investigations are conducted in daylight hours. This provides for the safest conditions on a scene and allows for easier scene visualization.
 - b. **Delayed Response** ETA – Usually 09:00 to support shift changes.
7. Once the number of investigators is met, let REDCOM know to re-tone that adequate resources responded.