

GENERAL FIRE CAUSE DEFINITIONS

UNDETERMINED – After investigation the cause of the fire is not known.

LIGHTNING – Fire started by lightning.

CAMPFIRE – Fire started from a campfire. A “campfire” is “a fire used for cooking, warmth, lighting, ceremonial, or aesthetic purposes, not within a building, mobile home, or living accommodation mounted on a motor vehicle.” (4103.5 PRC) In addition to the traditional type of open campfires, this category includes lanterns, and cooking and warming stoves used in camping or ceremonial activity, etc. when outside a building, mobile home, or living accommodation mounted on a motor vehicle.

SMOKING – Fire started from smoking tobacco or other material; includes matches and other heat sources used in smoking.

DEBRIS BURNING – Fire started by burning refuse, slash, trash, rights-of-way, or rangeland.

Dooryard – Fire started by burning a trash pile, incinerator, etc., usually with a dooryard-burning permit, Form LE-62.

Other – Fire started by project, contract, slash or other burning, usually with a Project Permit Form LE-7, or application and burning permit, Form LE-5.

ARSON – Fire started willfully and maliciously to burn or attempt to burn structures, forest land, or property.

EQUIPMENT USE – Fire started by the use of mechanical or electrical equipment.

Stationary Equipment – Fire started by any mechanical equipment that is stationary (not normally portable).

Portable Equipment – Fire started by any mechanical equipment or tool that is portable (not normally stationary).

Other Equipment – Fire started by any equipment not listed above.

VEHICLE – Fire started by a motorized transportation vehicle.

RAILROAD – Fire started by railroad rolling stock, such as speeder, locomotive, or rail car.

ELECTRICAL POWER – Fire started by electric distribution or transmission, powerline – hardware, pole or tower, and conductors, to the user’s meter.

PLAYING WITH FIRE – Fire started without malicious intent by adults or children playing or experimenting with fire or fire-causing agents. Includes fires started unintentionally while playing with fireworks, toys, models and other fire-causing devices. When children cause a fire by smoking, the intent determines the cause, i.e., if smoking as a play activity, use “Playing with fire;” if smoking as a smoker, the cause is “Smoking.”

OTHER CAUSE OR OTHER/MISCELLANEOUS – Fire started by events or activities that cannot be logically placed in any of the preceding “cause” classifications. Examples are electrical wiring on user’s side of meter, explosives and munitions (without arson intent) fireworks or signal devices (not in play activity), spontaneous combustion, spark from fireplace (when not debris burning), horseshoe spark, light bulb, or natural source (not lightning). Do not use for fires of unknown cause unless “other” is the most logical choice of causes.