

The Woodlands Fire Department Operational Guidelines

SR-04 – AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARMS

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To ensure that all personnel investigating an automatic alarm follow a standardized, consistent course of action for investigating, silencing, and resetting alarms.

2.0 SCOPE

- 2.1 This guideline will apply to all fire department personnel who respond to an automatic fire alarm.

3.0 GUIDELINE

- 3.1 Upon arrival, crews will look for obvious signs of smoke or fire from the exterior upon entering the structure.
- 3.2 Crews will report to the fire alarm panel to determine the area of the building in which the alarm has been activated.
- 3.3 Upon determining the location of the alarm, crews will make a thorough investigation of the area in which the alarm has activated, including the use of thermal imagery. If no signs of smoke or fire are evident, investigating crews may attempt to silence and reset the alarm. If no specific location of the alarm can be found, the entire building should be checked thoroughly for signs of smoke or fire.
- 3.4 If the alarm resets and crews have found no reason for activation, investigating crews may return to service.
- 3.5 If the alarm resets and activates again, or if the alarm will not reset, investigating crews will advise Fire Com that the alarm was unable to be reset, and that request that they contact the appropriate authorities if such information is on file.
- 3.6 If the structure is secured and is not Knox equipped, crews will make a thorough investigation of the exterior of the building, including use of thermal imagery, to check for signs of excessive heat, smoke, or fire. If after investigation, no signs of a problem exist, crews may return to service.