



Investigation Protocol for Fires Determined to Have Been Caused by Cigarette

9/1/07



Goal: To determine if a cigarette was, or was not, compliant with NYS law for fire-safe cigarettes.

Implement: Use the following protocol for all fires where a cigarette may be initially suspected to have to been involved in the ignition of the fire.

1. Determine origin of the fire.
2. Determine if a cigarette is a possible cause of the fire –
If “Yes”...use this protocol
If “No”... disregard this protocol
3. Physical Evidence
 - a. Determine if there is evidence of a cigarette at the point of origin.
 - b. Determine if there are cigarettes or cigarette packaging in the room of origin.
 - c. Determine if there are ashtrays or containers for cigarettes inside or outside the building.
 - d. Determine if there are cigarettes in the vehicles(s) of building occupants.
 - e. Determine if building occupants have cigarettes on their person.
 - f. Identify brand-styles of cigarette.
 - g. Refer information to OFPC using a *Report of Suspected Cigarette Caused Fire*
4. Interviews
 - a. Determine how many smokers used the room of origin.
 - b. Determine brand-style preference and brand loyalty of smokers.
 - c. Determine where cigarettes were purchased.
 - d. Refer information to OFPC.