

Guidelines and Requested Data for Electrical Systems at Fire Scenes for Fire Departments

Please spend a few minutes to document how you found the system and what was done. This information may be critical in forensically reconstructing what happened to cause the fire.

Guidelines

1. **Safety First!** These guidelines are in addition to all applicable codes, standards, and department guidelines.
2. **For residential fires or structures with a single electrical service, if you are at main the circuit panel, shut off the main circuit breaker but not the branch circuit breakers, if possible.** However, if there are multiple services, sub-panels, or questionable circumstances, be safe and shut off all breakers.
3. **If you have a camera, take several photos of the system** (such as the meter, panelboard, branch circuits, observed damage, etc. - after the fire is out) as this can also be a great source of information.
4. **Please add this information to your report** in case it is needed for the forensic investigation efforts.

A. State of Electrical System as found (attach additional sheets with notes and diagrams, if needed):

Time fire reported: _____

Time electrical service was cut: _____, by _____ (person) w/ _____ (org)

Location that electrical service was cut: _____ Time fire was extinguished: _____

Notes on meter and service equipment: _____

Panelboard(s): Notes: _____

Circuit breaker positions (if desired, a full panel schedule can be filled out):

Tripped (please list): _____

On position: _____

Off position: _____

House wiring or appliances (describe what you observed):

Your name: _____, **Best phone # to reach you:** _____

Your Department: _____, **Best time to call:** _____

Address of fire: _____, **Date of fire:** _____