

Fire Origin Protection Checklist

- Request wildland fire investigator or law enforcement.
- Make notes of all your actions and findings:
 - ☐ Identify and ask the responsible party and witnesses to remain on scene until fire investigator arrives.
 - ☐ Name and identification of reporting party.
 - ☐ En route observations. Include people or vehicles and smoke column color and direction.
 - ☐ First resources on scene.
 - ☐ Name and identification of persons or vehicles in vicinity of fire origin.
 - ☐ Weather observations.
- Locate and **protect** fire origin.
 - ☐ Do not contaminate area of origin or evidence with trash, cigarette butts, or foot and tire traffic.
 - ☐ Avoid suppression impacts to origin area, including charred vegetation:
 - Use fog nozzle.
 - Establish containment lines to protect area.
 - Allow heavier fuels to burn down.
 - Focus on securing the fire perimeter until investigations are complete.
- Protect physical evidence. Do not remove unless necessary to prevent destruction.
- Take photographs, including close-up views of fire origin area and evidence, if able.
- Turn over all notes, information, and physical evidence to fire investigator or law enforcement.
- Follow local procedures and policy regarding reporting of cause information.