

Department of Community Affairs

Division of Fire Safety

Office of the Director



TO: Fire Chiefs, Fire Officials, County Fire Marshals, Fire Investigators

FROM: William Kramer, Jr. Acting Director/State Fire Marshal

DATE: December 10, 2012

SUBJECT: Fires in Buildings Damaged by Hurricane Sandy

Recently there have been several fires in structures that were damaged as a result of Hurricane Sandy. The Division of Fire Safety has received information from local officials that many of these fires have been attributed to the damage to building systems such as electrical and natural gas services. Additionally, it has become apparent that some owners may have intentionally set fires in buildings that either had insufficient or no flood insurance, thus hoping to collect from their fire insurance policies.

We are trying to compile statistics on the causes of fires to buildings damaged by Sandy in order to get an idea of the effect of the hurricane in this regard.

Therefore, if your jurisdiction investigates a fire in a structure damaged by the hurricane we are asking that you provide some basic information regarding the fire to the Division. We are not looking to impact your workload significantly with this request and as such, we ask that you complete a short form that is on the Division's website at: <http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dfs/>.

Instructions for submittal are contained on the form.

I wish to thank you all for your dedication to the good people of New Jersey and for your cooperation regarding this request.