

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE**  
**INVESTIGATIVE CHECKLIST**

**FIRST DEGREE ARSON**

**RCW 9A.48.020**

**ELEMENTS**

The suspect

1. Knowingly and maliciously causes a fire or explosion
  - a.. which is manifestly dangerous to human life, including firemen OR
  - b. which damages a dwelling OR
  - c. in any building in which there is at the time a human being who is not a participant in the crime OR
  - d. on property valued at ten thousand dollars or more with intent to collect insurance proceeds.

**SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

- [ ] 1. Reports from responding firefighters.
- [ ] 2. Report from arson investigator describing the cause and origin of the fire, and damage.
- [ ] 3. A statement from the owner of the building describing the building, relationship between the owner of the building and the suspect, if any, and any knowledge the owner may have of the incident.
- [ ] 4. If alleging 1(b) above, a statement from a witness/owner which describes the structure as a dwelling.
- [ ] 5. If alleging 1(c) above, a statement from a witness/occupants which describes the presence of persons.
- [ ] 6. If alleging 1(d), a copy of the application for insurance, a copy of the insurance policy and a copy of any claims submitted. Statements from persons who witnessed the application or claim request should also be submitted.
- [ ] 7. Owner or expert's estimate of fair market value of the property before and after the fire, or estimate of cost of repair.
- [ ] 8. Determine and detail what evidence exists to disprove/prove that the fire was accidental.
- [ ] 9. Determine and detail what evidence exists to prove/disprove the suspect's motive.
- [ ] 10. Determine and detail what evidence exists to disprove/prove the suspect's alibi -- and specifically interview possible alibi witnesses.
- [ ] 11. Prepare detailed diagrams of the crime scene, with accurate measurements.

[ ] 12. Consider the need for forensic laboratory examination and testing, including DNA testing, fingerprint comparison, tool mark comparison, accelerant identification, etc.