

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

**FIRST DEGREE RECKLESS BURNING**

**RCW 9A.48.040**

**ELEMENTS**

The suspect

- a.) Recklessly damages a building or other structure or any vehicle, railway car, aircraft or watercraft or any hay, grain, crop, or timber whether cut or standing;
- b.) by knowingly causing a fire or explosion.

**SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

- [ ] 1. Reports from responding firefighters.
- [ ] 2. Report from arson investigator describing the cause and origin of the fire, and resulting damage.
- [ ] 3. Statement from the owner of the property describing the property, relationship between the owner and suspect if any, and any knowledge the owner may have of the incident.
- [ ] 4. Owner or expert's estimates of fair market value of the property before and after the fire, or estimate of cost of repair.
- [ ] 5. Determine whether the suspect owned the property and whether the suspect had a lawful purpose for destroying or damaging the property.
- [ ] 6. Determine and detail what evidence exists to disprove/prove that the fire was accidental.
- [ ] 7. Determine and detail what evidence exists to prove/disprove the suspect's motive.
- [ ] 8. Determine and detail what evidence exists to disprove/prove the suspect's alibi -- and specifically interview possible alibi witnesses.
- [ ] 9. Consider the need for forensic laboratory examination and testing, including fingerprint comparison, tool mark comparison, accelerant identification, etc.