

SALVAGE and OVERHAUL

Purpose:

- To establish a minimum guideline to be utilized in lessening the effects of a fire on the consumer no matter the scale of the incident.

Guideline:

- Salvage includes activities required to stop direct and indirect fire damage in addition to those required to minimize the effects of firefighting operations. This includes losses from water, smoke and firefighting efforts. Salvage operations must be aimed at aggressively controlling loss by the most expedient means.
 - Salvage operations most often involve early smoke removal and covering building contents with salvage covers or plastic. In some cases, the contents of all threatened areas, where appropriate, can be removed to a safe location
 - Salvage efforts should begin in areas most severely threatened by damage. In most cases that will be areas directly adjacent to or below the fire area. Additional salvage activities should expand outward until all areas of potential loss are secured.
 - If possible remove valuables when requested and give directly to the owner or occupant.
- The main objective of overhaul operations is to seek out and extinguish all remaining fire and control loss, stabilize the incident scene by providing for firefighter safety and to secure the structure
 - Fire suppression operations often overlook small pockets of fire concealed in construction voids or hidden under debris. Overhaul activities must thoroughly search the fire scene to detect and extinguish these hidden fires or "hot spots" before they rekindle. The Thermal Imaging cameras shall be used in assisting with this operation
 - Floor, wall or ceiling areas showing evidence of extensive decomposition due to fire should be thoroughly examined during overhaul. Additional areas to check include wooden door jambs, air conditioning vents and registers, base-boards, door and window casings, and around light fixtures and electrical outlets. Axes, pike poles, and halogen tools are most commonly used for this purpose.
 - Attic fires pose a special hazard for rekindle where insulation has been exposed to fire. Large areas can receive fire damage and can be located in difficult to reach areas. In some cases, all insulation must be removed to extinguish all remnants of fire. Plenum spaces, soffits and pipe chases should receive careful inspection as they provide possible routes for fire to spread throughout a structure.

- Evidence Preservation
 - Companies performing overhaul should continuously weigh the importance of preserving evidence with the desire to immediately remove debris and completely extinguish all traces of fire.
 - In some cases, it may be necessary to monitor spot fires until investigators arrive on the scene.
 - When possible, evidence should remain untouched, undisturbed and in its original location. Where circumstances prohibit this, evidence should be removed under the direction of a fire investigator or police officer.
 - In cases where the investigation cannot be completed in one day a security watch utilizing fire police or police officer will be arranged

- When necessary Command will schedule for site inspections related to structures that are unsafe and where not completely overhauled.