


SHELBYVILLE FIRE & RESCUE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

	SECTION: Operations SUBJECT: Overhaul	S.O.P: 109.15
		PAGE: 1 of 2
	Approved By:	Effective Date: December 1, 2012
		Revision Date:

Purpose:

This procedure describes guidelines for conducting overhaul operations. The main objective of overhaul operations is to seek out and extinguish all remaining fire, control loss, stabilize the incident scene by providing firefighter safety and to secure the structure.

Procedure:

I. General

1. Rekindles must always be eliminated. Additional objectives should include:
 - a. Preserve evidence
 - b. Secure the fire scene
2. When addressing overhaul operations, Command should;
 - a. Insure overhaul is conducted safely.
 - b. Insure all fire is extinguished.
 - c. During rest breaks of fire crews, insure at least two firefighters remain in the fire area to detect any possible hidden fire and/or re-ignition.
 - d. Use early and continuing PPV to maintain an acceptable working environment and reduce loss.
 - e. Meet with the property owner or occupant concerning overhaul operations.
 - f. Schedule post-incident drive-by/walk-through of the fire building by fire companies to check for potential re-ignition sources.
 - g. Closely coordinate overhaul with fire investigators.


II. Public Relations:

1. Command or a Company Officer should meet with the property owner or occupant to explain the reasons for overhaul operations. In some cases, when safe to do so, allowing the property owner or occupant to be escorted through the fire area can help them understand the need for overhaul operations. Proper loss control operations should, of course, be completed prior to any walk-through.
2. Allowing the property owner or occupant the opportunity to remove personal possessions/valuables, or boxing and removing these items for them is an excellent public relations and loss control opportunity.
3. Every effort should also be made to assist the property owner or occupant in notifying insurance agents, etc. and answering any questions.
- 4.

III. Hidden Fires:

1. 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.

SHELBYVILLE FIRE & RESCUE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

	SECTION: Operations	S.O.P: 109.15
	SUBJECT: Overhaul	PAGE: 2 of 2
	Approved By:	Effective Date: December 1, 2012
		Revision Date:

- 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 casing, 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 places to reach. 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. Failing to overhaul these areas invites fire extension to uninvolved building areas.
- Command will be responsible for insuring that the fire area has been thoroughly overhauled and no hidden fire remains. The Company Officer last leaving the scene will be responsible for insuring total fire extinguishment. Command will be further responsible for scheduling post-incident drive-by/walk through inspections of the fire building to eliminate any rekindles. At least one post-incident inspection will be scheduled, and Command will determine the need for additional inspection.
- Post-incident inspections include a walk through of the building or areas that are safe to enter. Crews should search for any evidence of smoke or remaining hot spots. An examination of contents below salvage covers should be conducted. In some cases, additional openings in the structure may be required.

IV. Evidence Preservation:

- Companies performing overhaul should continuously weigh the importance of preserving evidence while removing debris but continue to completely extinguish all traces of fire. In some cases, it may be necessary to monitor spot fires until investigators arrive on the scene. Evidence should remain untouched, undisturbed and in its original location when possible. When circumstances prohibit this, evidence should be removed under the direction of the fire investigator.

V. Securing the Fire Scene

Securing the fire scene is also a function of overhaul. Securing refers to actions required to protect the structure and contains from any further loss after fire suppression companies have departed from the scene. Roof ventilation holes and broken windows should be covered to reduce weather damage and deter vandalism. The rolled plastic is ideal for this use. For safety reasons, remaining glass shards should always be removed from the frames of broken windows prior to installing covers and always prior to leaving the scene. If necessary, doors and windows may need to be boarded up to prevent unauthorized entry or vandalism into the structure.

Securing the scene also includes the actions required to insure the safety of all persons likely to visit the incident scene. Once a hazard zone is established during firefighting operations, it must not be abandoned prior to removing or stabilizing the hazard. Overhaul companies must provide a means of identifying and guarding hazards that cannot be removed or stabilized. Barricades, hazard tape, and the posting of guards are all suitable methods depending upon the severity of hazard.