



PROPERTY CONSERVATION SOG

SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to all members of the Stoney Point Fire Department (SPFD) and shall be adhered to by all members.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard is to inform all firefighters of the need for property conservation in its relation to fire suppression efforts.

Policy Number

5A.005

Page 1 of 3

DEFINITIONS

OVERHAUL OPERATIONS- This work consists of searching for and extinguishing any hidden or remaining fires, and placing the building, its contents, and general fire area back to a safe condition.

SALVAGE OPERATIONS - This work consist of methods and operating procedures which aid in reducing fire, water, and smoke damage during and after fire control efforts.

SHALL - Indicates a mandatory requirement.

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES (SOG) - Documents that help establish how an organization will operate and how its members are expected to carry out specific duties outlined in general terms.

Guideline

Property Conservation is a procedure to commit whatever fire ground resource is required to reduce property loss to an absolute minimum. The activities that relate to effective property conservation require the same early and ongoing command functions and aggressive action as



both Rescue and Fire Control. All personnel are expected to perform in a manner that continually reduces loss during fire operations.

When the fire is out, shut down the fire streams. Early recognition that the forward progress of the fire has been stopped is an important element in reducing loss. The earlier the salvage operations begin, the smaller the loss.

When basic fire control has been achieved, Command must commit and direct groups into salvage operations; such activities generally include:

- Evaluating damage to overall fire area.
- Evaluating the salvage value of various areas.
- Evaluate the men and equipment that will be required.
- Committing the required personnel to salvage functions.
- Reducing hose lines from fire control functions to salvage functions.

In cases where there is an overlapping need for both fire control and salvage to be performed simultaneously and where initial personnel are involved in fire fighting while salvage remains undone, request additional mutual aid to achieve this task.

Be aware that personnel involved in rescue and fire control operations are generally fatigued and have reached their limits by the time property conservation functions must be completed - this can result in sloppy work and many injuries. Evaluate the condition of personnel and replace with fresh firefighters, if needed.

Prompt fire ground lighting, both interior and exterior, reduces fire loss and increases safety.

The provision of salvage operations must be integrated into the cause determination phase. When fire control becomes stable, back fire control personnel out and let fire investigators develop a plan. Be aware of personnel who want to quickly shovel out the interior and go home - they will generally shovel out the evidence with the debris.

Much of the property conservation profile of a building can be identified during pre-fire planning activities. Command must consider this profile in developing and extending a plan of attack.

Policy Number
5A.005
Page 2 of 3



Most fire personnel are more attracted to active fire attack functions than to the less active operations that relate to property conservation - simply, most firefighters would rather operate nozzles than throw salvage covers. Command must integrate this awareness into specific group assignments and structure effective follow-up to insure minimum property loss.

Firefighters should be aware of two types of fire damage:

1. **Primary fire damage** is caused by the products of combustion. Fire affect both victims and property in similar ways, causing injury or death to one and damage and destruction to the other.
2. **Secondary damage** is caused by rescue, forcible entry, ventilation, checking for extension, and water application.

Policy Number

5A.005

Page 3 of 3