



PROPERTY CONSERVATION

SCOPE

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

PURPOSE

To establish procedures for property conservation operations in their relation to fire suppression efforts.

DEFINITIONS

Guideline - a general rule, principle, outline of a policy

Member – any career, volunteer, staff, and auxiliary personnel affiliated with the department

Overhaul – personnel and activities related to searching for fire extension and preventing rekindling of the fire

Salvage – personnel and activities related to protecting property from unnecessary damage at the incident scene

Shall - indicates a mandatory requirement

Policy Number

5A.005

Page 1 of 2

GUIDELINES

Property Conservation is a procedure to commit fire ground resources as required to reduce property loss. 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 take actions to minimize property loss throughout fire operations. Preventing unnecessary water damage is as important as preventing fire damage to property conservation operations.

Overhaul Operations

It is important to ensure that the fire has not extended into hidden spaces where it could later rekindle and cause further damage. Personnel shall be assigned to conduct overhaul operations to check for this extension. Thermal Imaging Cameras (TIC) are effective at locating faint heat signatures that could later become flames. Personnel should use hand tool to gain access to walls, floors, and ceilings to find and extinguish all remaining heat sources, as well as ensuring smoldering debris is thoroughly extinguished. SCBAs shall be worn by all overhaul personnel throughout the operation.



Salvage Operations

Salvage operations may be accomplished throughout fire ground operations. Crews can remove portable objects that may become damaged by fire, water, or personnel at any time. When possible, the Incident Commander shall assign personnel to conduct salvage operations during the conduct of the fire attack. Additional units may be requested to accomplish this essential function. All fire attack crews shall be mindful of minimizing the damage inflicted by their suppression efforts. When salvageable items are too large or cumbersome to move away from suppression efforts, they may be covered with salvage covers to minimize damage. There are two main categories of damage that occurs at a fire scene:

- **Primary fire damage** - caused by the products of combustion
- **Secondary damage** - caused by suppression efforts, rescue, forcible entry, ventilation, and overhaul

It is important to remember that there may be evidence of a crime within the fire scene. Efforts should be taken to ensure the protection and preservation of this evidence by limiting the destructive processes of overhaul and salvage operations. Property conservation is an important, but underappreciated, facet of firefighting. Proper supervision must be included in the property conservation operations to be most effective.

Policy Number

5A.005

Page 2 of 2

REFERENCES

NFPA 1001