

Orchard Farm Fire Protection District Standard Operating Procedure

Division: 200 **Emergency Operations**
Section: 202 **Fire & Rescue**
Subject: 202.16 **Overhaul Operations**



Supersedes: N/A

Approved By: 

Date: 05/22/2013

Date Last Reviewed: N/A

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PURPOSE:

To define the District's typical overhaul procedures

RESPONSIBILITY:

All District Personnel

PROCEDURES:

The main objective of overhaul operations is to seek out and extinguish all remaining fire, control loss, stabilize the incident scene by providing for firefighter safety and 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 halligan 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. Evidence should remain untouched, undisturbed and in its original location, whenever possible. Where circumstances prohibit this, evidence should be removed under the direction of a fire investigator or police officer.

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Safety

During overhaul or salvage operations, continuous atmospheric monitoring should be utilized to establish that a safe atmosphere exists prior to discontinuing the use of SCBA. Any of the following conditions in the working area require continued use of self-contained breathing apparatus:

- A. CO levels of 35ppm or greater
- B. Oxygen (O₂) levels of 19.5% or less
- C. Continued presence of smoke from combustion

At a minimum Helmets and gloves shall be worn when operating inside of a structure.