

Policy: **Property Preservation**

Purpose: It is standard procedure to commit whatever fireground resource is required to reduce property loss to an absolute minimum. Activities relating to effective property conservation require the same early and on-going command functions and aggressive action as both Rescue and Fire Control. All members are expected to perform in a manner that continually reduces loss during fire operations.

Scope: This policy applies to all NPPFD personnel.

Policy

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 companies to "stop loss" activities. These activities generally include:

- Evaluating damage to overall fire area.
- Evaluating the salvage value of various areas.
- Forecasting the personnel and equipment that will be required.
- Committing the required companies 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 alarm companies are involved in fire fighting while salvage remains undone, strike additional alarms and commit the additional companies to salvage functions.

Commit the same emphasis and sector command resource to property conservation activities as were devoted to rescue and fire control.

Be aware that personnel involved in rescue and fire control operations are generally fatigued by the time property conservation functions must be undertaken - this can result in injuries and sub-standard work. Evaluate the condition of personnel and replace them with fresh troops if needed.

Early adequate fireground lighting, both interior and exterior combined with early aggressive ventilation, reduces fire loss and increases safety.

The provision of salvage functions must be integrated into the cause determination phase and secondary search. When fire control becomes stable, withdraw fire control companies and let fire investigators develop a plan. Beware 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.

When a situation makes complete and final overhaul and salvage difficult, Command may assign personnel to provide a fire watch over the affected property. The basic responsibility of a fire watch is to guard against rekindles and to maintain property protection. As an alternative, Command may direct a company to return to the scene periodically to check on conditions.

By the Order of: _____
Fire Chief

Date: _____

