

# Property Conservation

## **407.1 INTRODUCTION**

The provision of salvage functions must be integrated into the cause determination phase. When fire control becomes stable, back fire control companies out 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 the pre-fire planning activities. Command must consider this profile in developing and extending a plan of attack.

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

## **407.2 FIRE CAUSE DETERMINATION**

When fire control becomes stable, if arson is suspected, if fire is suspicious, or origin is unknown, the highest-ranking officer on the scene or his/her designee should investigate the cause and make a decision. If an investigator is needed, the Fire Alarm Operator will be notified and he/she will contact one.