
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.