

Operating Guideline # 806

Overhaul Operations

December 9, 2019



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to establish guidelines for overhaul operations.

GUIDELINE:

1. At the conclusion of extinguishment operations, the Incident Commander should appoint a Company Officer or senior firefighter to conduct/supervise overhaul activities. This individual will be responsible for ensuring that the activities are carried out safely and thoroughly so that a "rekindle" will not occur. As with all operations, the structural integrity of the building must be constantly assessed to assure firefighter safety.
2. Overhaul operations will always be conducted in such a manner as to support fire cause determination efforts; care should be taken to avoid the destruction of evidence needed for investigative efforts.
3. Where it is necessary to remove interior furnishings because of the risk of re-ignition (i.e. - burnt mattresses and overstuffed furniture) photographs should be taken and careful note of the original location and position of each must be kept to aid in the fire investigation.
4. Personnel engaged in overhaul shall wear full protective clothing including respiratory protection. Air quality monitoring should be conducted continuously during overhaul and must be assured as "clear" prior to doffing SCBA. The time and results of air monitoring activities should be communicated to Dispatch and these efforts should be recorded in the incident/call history. It should be noted that the myriad of post-fire gases that can be present go far beyond current air-monitoring and detection capabilities. Many gases are invisible and can present serious threats to firefighter health and safety.
5. Portable lighting should be provided where necessary to ensure safe activities during overhaul procedures.
6. A charged hoseline should be immediately available to crews assigned to overhaul activities.
7. Standard safety practices with regard to the use of hand and power tools will be observed.
8. Thermal imaging should be utilised to identify hot spots.
9. The number of personnel utilized for overhaul operations will be kept to the minimum number required to complete the task safely.

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10. Following overhaul procedures, firefighters who came in contact with building debris or other possible contaminants shall be decontaminated/washed down in an isolated area prior to SCBA and turnout gear being removed.

11. The thermal imaging camera shall be used during all overhaul operations.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all members to comply with the provisions of this OG and particularly that Company Officers (supervisors) and firefighters (workers) ensure that they adhere to their duties in accordance with the provisions of this document and the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

REFERENCES:

- Occupational Health and Safety Act (RSO 1990, c. 0.1)
- Section 21 Committee GN 6-36, Limiting Exposure to Fire Gases
- MLFD OG 105 – Personal Protective Clothing Care & Maintenance
- MLFD OG 203 – Breathing Apparatus
- MLFD OG 312 – Single and Multi-Gas Detectors