

Walnut Street Fire Company # 4

Loss Control

Philosophy Of Loss Control

- a. Minimize damage
- b. Provide customer service
- c. Build fire department public image
- d. Reduce chances of claims or litigation

Two Facets Of Loss Control - Salvage & Overhaul

1. Salvage

- Reduces both primary damage (caused by the fire) and secondary damage (caused by suppression activities)
- Conducted both during and after suppression
- Should begin as soon as adequate personnel are available
- Efficient salvage operations require department procedures and firefighter training

Procedures

- department / company should have salvage SOPs
- awareness of commercial and industrial occupancies
- computer equipment and critical paper documents
- special pre – plans should be developed for buildings with high – value contents or special issues
- examples ?

Training

- **knowledge of covers and other needed tools, e. g. :**

sprinkler wedges	complete tool box
duct tape	nails & screws
plastic sheeting	roofing paper
plastic bags	heavy – duty stapler
hack saw	bow saw
furring strips	window sticks
tin snips	roof cutter
hammer	sledge hammer
pipe wrench	adjustable wrenches
scoop shovels	squeegee
floor runners	mops & bucket

- **knowledge of techniques such as water chutes, catch - all**
- **for minor fires put down covers to protect floor coverings in adjacent rooms where firefighters will be walking, dragging hose, etc.**
- **put down covers before pulling ceilings**
- **remove lightweight valuables (e.g. paintings, pictures, loose papers and records) and put someone in charge of accounting for them at a specific location**
- **group room contents together to minimize the number of covers needed to cover them**
- **group contents away from walls**
- **if possible, raise furniture off floor**

- put lamps and small pieces onto chairs and couches
- work from farthest from scene of fire toward seat where damage may already have occurred and to avoid impeding suppression activity
- when large amount of water is accumulating, locate and unclog drains, remove toilet fixtures, possibly cut holes in floors

Salvage Covers

- canvass covers require more maintenance than synthetic covers
- canvass covers more sturdy / fire resistant
- synthetic covers lighter weight
- canvass covers easier to roll and fold
- throw can be made by one firefighter from roll
- 2 firefighters required to cover with fold
- covers should be clean and dry before folding or rolling

2. Overhaul

- Normally not started until fire is under control
- Searching for and extinguishing “hot spots”
- Preserving evidence
- Protecting the scene
- Avoiding re-kindles (no such thing)
- How much PPE to wear during overhaul ?
- Charged hose lines should always be available
- Booster lines or PWE may also be used

- **Be alert to potentially dangerous conditions, e. g. :**
 - a. **weakened floors or floor joists**
 - b. **floor joists pulled loose from masonry walls**
 - c. **walls that are bowed or offset**
 - d. **weakened roof members (wood or steel)**

- **Detecting hidden fires**
 - a. **Burned areas**
 - b. **Wisps of smoke**
 - c. **Peeled paint**
 - d. **Cracked plaster**
 - e. **Browned or rippled wallpaper**
 - f. **Feel walls or floors with back of hand**
 - g. **Thermal imager**
 - h. **Look for extension as soon as possible**
 - i. **Start at seat and move out**
 - j. **Insulation should be checked very carefully and removed if necessary**
 - k. **Check around door frames and window casings**
 - l. **Remove smoldering bedding and furniture**
 - m. **Be very careful about evidence preservation**

