Bath Township Fire Department			Standard Operating Guideline	
Section Operations	**Referral No.** O-28	**Subject:** Salvage Operations	**Date Issued** 2/03	**Date Revised** 03/08

Purpose:

- To provide guidelines for safe salvage operations.
- To stop direct and indirect fire damage.
  - Proper salvage will promote positive customer relations by reducing losses from fire, smoke and firefighting activities.

Scope:

- This standard operating guideline shall apply to all personnel.

Responsibilities:

- Officer
  - Ensure that personnel respond properly.
  - Provide direction based on the Incident Management System.
  - Ensure the safety of all personnel.
- Personnel
  - All personnel have the responsibility of following the direction of Incident Command at an emergency scene.
  - All personnel have the responsibility to wear the proper safety equipment and to operate in a safe manner.

Guidelines:

- **Safety is always our first priority**
- Even in what might be considered minimal smoke conditions, SCBA should still be worn, due to unknown levels of CO, or other toxic gas.
- Salvage efforts should begin in areas most severely threatened by damage.
  - In most cases, this will be areas directly adjacent or below the fire area.
- Aggressive salvage will reduce the damage incurred during firefighting activities.
- Some damage is required to extinguish the fire and reduce the potential for fire spread.
- Items of high value (business records, family mementos, paintings) should be protected due to their difficulty replacement.
- If additional resources are needed for successful salvage, ask for them.
- If salvage covers are left on scene, make arrangements for pickup later.
- A return walk through should be scheduled to pick up all salvage covers and ensure that post-incident damage is not occurring.
- When safe to do so, escorting the property owner through the structure can be helpful if further salvage is necessary.

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