Bath Township Fire Department			Standard Operating Guideline	
Section Operations	**Referral No.** O-29	**Subject:** Overhaul Operations	**Date Issued** 2/03	**Date Revised** 03/08

Purpose:

- The main objective of overhaul operations is to seek out and extinguish all remaining fire, control loss, stabilize the incident, and secure the structure.

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**
- **Full PPE shall be worn until air gases have been analyzed and determined safe to operate without SCBA.**
- Overhaul activities must thoroughly search the fire scene to detect and extinguish hidden fires and hot spots before they rekindle.
- Floor, ceiling and wall areas showing evidence of decomposition due to fire should be thoroughly examined during overhaul.
- Additional areas to check include but are not limited to: doorjambs, window casings, vents and registers, base boards and areas around light fixtures and electrical outlets.
- Attic fires pose a special hazard for rekindle where insulation has been exposed to fire. In some cases, insulation must be completely removed to prevent rekindle and fully extinguish the fire.
- Use of the Thermal Imaging Camera is helpful for locating hot spots.
- In some cases, walls, ceilings or floors must be opened up to check for fire extension.
- Prior to leaving the scene, the Incident Commander will ensure that the fire area has been thoroughly overhauled and no hidden fire remains.

Evidence Preservation:

- Where possible, evidence should remain untouched until examined by the Fire Investigator.
- When evidence must be removed, it will be done so under the direction of the Fire Investigator.

Securing the Fire Scene:

- Securing the fire scene is also a function of overhaul.
- Securing the scene protects the structure and contents from further loss after fire companies have left the scene.
- Covering ventilation holes and broken windows will reduce weather damage and deter vandalism.
- Utilization of a commercial company that provides board up services will assist the fire department in securing the scene.
- A fire department official should remain on scene until the board up company has secured the scene.
- Fire department personnel will be responsible for cleanup of all trash and derbies' created by the fire department such as but not limited to water bottles, food wrappers etc.
- If hazards remain, the scene must be barricaded or barrier taped to alert anyone who might possibly enter, that hazards remain and entry is prohibited.