



**UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY**  
**OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**  
**Affiliation: Command Guidelines**  
**Subject: Overhaul**  
**Number: 450-28**  
**Approved: 12/22/2021 By: AC Stephen Higgs**  
**Last Reviewed: 11/25/2025 By: BC Craig Ellingson**

**DEFINITION:**

**Overhaul** - is the practice of searching for hidden fires or smoldering material that may rekindle and safeguard signs of arson. Overhaul is used in conjunction with salvage operations to reduce loss caused by fire.

**PURPOSE:**

To provide a guideline when conducting overhaul in conjunction with salvage operations.

**PROCEDURE:**

- 1.0 Once “fire under control” has been established, crews will begin overhaul, in conjunction with salvage.
  - 1.1 This is accomplished by exposing routes of fire spread and to fully extinguish and/or reasonably remove combustibles from the occupancy or involved property.
  - 1.2 Full PPE, including SCBA, will be used throughout all overhaul operations.
  - 1.3 Overhaul operations should be systematic. It is best to start nearest the area of origin and work out from that point.
  - 1.4 Overhaul will continue until loss stop is determined by the officer in charge of overhaul.
  - 1.5 Ensure UFA Hazmat on scene for air monitoring per UFA SOG 450-44
- 2.0 The removal of sheetrock and wall coverings may be necessary until evidence of unburnt materials is found.
  - 2.1 Ensure all utilities are secured prior to starting overhaul operations.
  - 2.2 Remove insulation from the inside of walls as well as cellulose insulation from attic spaces. Consider insulation vacuum as needed.
  - 2.3 Once insulation or cellulose are removed, utilize thermal imaging to locate hot spots.
  - 2.4 If the fire is of suspicious origin, only minimal overhaul should be performed until a Fire Investigator has cleared the area.
  - 2.5 Whenever possible, utilize floor runners and salvage covers to catch debris and water in an effort to limit damage to the building involved.



**UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY**

**OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**

**Affiliation: Command Guidelines**

**Subject: Overhaul**

**Number: 450-28**

**Approved: 12/22/2021 By: AC Stephen Higgs**

**Last Reviewed: 11/25/2025 By: BC Craig Ellingson**