

Fauquier County Department of Fire Rescue

OPERATING PROCEDURE

No. 802

Fire Marshal Incident Scene Control

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Forms:

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to provide guidelines for shifting the control of the incident scene from suppression personnel to the fire investigator and establish the responsibility for releasing resources.

SCOPE

This operating procedure applies to all Fauquier County Department of Fire-Rescue personnel as well as the Fauquier County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association and its associated departments.

I. DEFINITIONS

The term fire investigator shall mean the fire marshal or fire investigator from the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office assigned to investigate the incident.

II. PROCEDURE

- A. Upon arrival at an incident scene, the fire investigator must report to the incident commander and announce his/her presence. As soon as practical, the incident commander shall brief the fire investigator of the situation. The fire investigator must ascertain if any safety hazards are present and any areas of restricted personnel movement.
- B. Once the incident is declared stable, the fire investigator shall coordinate with the incident commander what resources will be required to assist with the investigation and when overhaul activities may be completed.
- C. When the command post operation has been terminated, the unit officer designated as the incident commander shall coordinate the release of the remaining units with the fire investigator. The fire investigator shall have the authority to hold units out of service and call additional units to the scene to assist with the investigation. When the incident is in the investigative phase, the fire investigator shall have control of the scene, however the unit officer/incident commander shall remain in command of the suppression personnel on the scene.

Desire to Serve

Ability to Perform

Courage to Act