

Subject:	RESPONSE TO CRIME SCENE AND FATALITY INCIDENTS
Section:	PPG# 4400.19
Chapter:	Operations
Effective Date:	7/1/98

1.0 POLICY

- 1.1** It shall be the first priority of Thurston County Fire Protection District No.5 & 9 to provide medical aid to injured persons discovered at a crime scene emergency response situation.
- 1.2** Control of a crime scene and incidents where a fatality has occurred shall be at the direction of the law enforcement agent with appropriate jurisdiction.
- 1.3** Prior to the arrival of appropriate law enforcement personnel, if sufficient District 5 & 9 personnel are available, measures to protect the crime scene should proceed simultaneously with providing aid to injured persons or examining persons who appear to be deceased. Measures include roping off certain critical exits or apertures; posting guards to control spectators around areas expected to have high potential for physical evidence yield; and covering areas that would be affected by smoke, rain, snow or direct sun rays.
- 1.4** In extreme cases, objects that have evidence potential may be moved from areas where they would otherwise be destroyed or drastically affected by the elements. Movement of evidence prior to examination and processing should be avoided in order to preserve the physical aspects to be reviewed in detail by the detective or fire investigator assigned to the case. Certain actions to be controlled are:
- 1.4.1** Avoid walking in areas that are likely to bear the foot impressions, tire prints, burn patterns, etc.
 - 1.4.2** Members shall not move items or disturb the bodies of deceased persons.
 - 1.4.3** No one shall be allowed to remove any item from the scene without specific permission of the Shift Commander with acknowledgement of a Law Enforcement Officer.
- 1.5** Restraints should not be removed until all investigations and investigator in charge in charge has specifically released the scene
- 1.6** All members shall cooperate with the law enforcement, fire investigators and other specialists such as State Department of Labor and Industries investigators, who may wish

to search the scene and process information. The personnel who secured the scene should compile their information, including any changes at the scene, and make such available to any investigator who subsequently arrives to take charge of the investigation or to conduct a search.

2.0 GUIDELINES

- 2.1** The following details should be noted:
- (a) Time of arrival on the scene;
 - (b) Weather conditions;
 - (c) Persons present at the time of arrival on the scene, etc.
- 2.2** Bodies of deceased persons shall not be moved until law enforcement staff is on the scene.
- 2.3** Bodies may be removed by law enforcement or coroner office staff.