

FIRE DEATH VICTIMS

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for handling the removal and care of fire death victims.

PROCEDURE

1. **If a fire death victim is discovered during fire scene operations, the Incident Commander will immediately notify the following:**
 - A. County Medical Examiner
 - B. State Fire Marshal
 - C. Law enforcement agency having jurisdiction.
 - D. Fire Marshal and/or Duty Investigator.
 - E. District Chaplain.
 - F. PIO
 - G. Fire Chief

All fires involving a fire victim death shall be treated as a crime scene until determined differently.

The fire victim shall not be moved unless absolutely necessary.

A fire death victim should only be removed if the body is located such that it will sustain further damage or impedes the ability to stabilize the situation .

The Incident Commander shall establish entry and exit security, and log all personnel movement until turned over to law enforcement.

If moved outside the structure, the body will be covered and one firefighter posted at the location. Before the body is moved:

- A. Take mental notes.
- B. Create sketches.
- C. Take pictures of the location and position of the body so an Oregon Fire Casualty Report can be completed with a drawing depicting the position of the victim when found.

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KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Actual identification of a victim will be left to the medical examiner and no statements referring to the victim's identification or cause of death will be made by a District employee.
- An effort should be made to secure the scene from direct public view.
- A CISD should be conducted after every fatal fire.