

**CHAPTER II Operations**

**SUBJECT 3            Emergency Operations**

**TOPIC 12            Handling of Fatalities**

A.    PURPOSE

Preservation of evidence at the scene of a fire or other emergency.

B.    POLICY

Police Department will investigate all cases where victims are found dead. This will make it necessary to leave the scene as undisturbed as possible.

The Fire Chief is to be notified of all fire fatalities. The on-call chief, on-call fire investigator and a FIU Officer will respond to all incidents involving fire fatalities.

C.    PROCEDURES

1. Bodies encountered, with a possibility of life, proceed with first aid and rescue with least possible movement of furniture and contents.
2. Bodies encountered, obviously dead, leave as found, with least possible destruction of area.
3. The Incident Commander shall notify dispatch that they have a fire fatality and for dispatch to make proper notification including having police respond to the scene. Do not move the body.
4. Once the fire is extinguished; preserve evidence, secure scene, cordon off the scene with barrier tape, and post a guard at all entrances while awaiting arrival of fire investigator. All unnecessary personnel shall back out of the scene.
5. Keep overhaul to a minimum in the area of the body. To protect the body from debris cover it with salvage cover as needed.
6. Deaths from Carbon Monoxide poisoning to be handled by normal response. Police and building department will be requested to respond to the scene.