

Springdale Fire Department

Policy & Procedures Manual

Volume 2 – Operations

Section 203 – Fire Operations

203.10 Fatality Fires

SFD personnel will conduct fire ground operations and investigations of fires involving human fatalities with due regard for the legal process and national standards of good practice. Separate investigations will be performed when a human fatality results from a fire. SFD Fire Prevention Division Personnel will conduct a complete investigation as to the origin & cause of the fire. Springdale Police Department Criminal Investigation Detectives, in cooperation with SFD personnel, will conduct a complete cause of death investigation. Consent to search forms, administrative search warrants, or criminal search warrants, must be obtained as indicated by the situation.

Command shall follow the following procedures for any fire involving a human fatality:

- Dispatch Car 4 and Car 6 to respond to the fire scene.
- Dispatch a detective from SPD CID.
- Confirm that dispatch has notified the Fire Chief and the Assistant Fire Chief.
- Maintain tight security at the fire scene.
- Only essential firefighting operations should continue.
- Restrict entry into the structure by only necessary personnel and document all entries using the fatality fire scene entry log provided by the Fire Prevention Division.
- The fire fatality victim should not be moved unless directed by the Incident Commander, the Operations Sector (if the Operations Sector is a Chief Officer), the Fire Marshal, a Fire Prevention Captain, a CID Officer, or the Coroner, except under the circumstances listed below:
 1. When resuscitation attempts are warranted.
 2. When additional fire damage to the body is probable due to likely structural failure near the body.

If the victim has been moved during suppression activities, the investigator should immediately interview the firefighters who first discovered and/or moved the victim. Fire Department personnel need to complete a written statement as quickly as possible.