



RIVER DELTA FIRE DISTRICT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

Chapter 3: Scene Preservation

REVISED: 10/5/2025

Scene Preservation

303.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide district members with guidance on performing emergency mitigation tasks when working in and around scenes where evidence may be present. Members of the District are often confronted with opposing priorities when performing duties at scenes containing potential evidence. They must balance the need to provide timely and effective life-saving and property-preserving services while minimizing the disturbance of any items of evidentiary value. In some instances, district members must evaluate whether to enter a scene or to initiate mitigation activities.

303.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Evidence - Any item or arrangement of items that may provide relevant information to an investigation.

Scene - Any location where items of evidentiary value may be found. A scene need not be the location where a criminal act occurred, it need only be a location where items of evidentiary value are available for collection or documentation.

303.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the River Delta Fire District to minimize the disturbance of conditions and evidentiary items when providing emergency mitigation services in and around scenes.

303.3 ENTERING POTENTIAL CRIME SCENES

When district members determine that a scene containing potential evidence is involved, they should promptly evaluate the need to enter the scene prior to approval of investigators.

303.4 CRIME SCENES INVOLVING FIRE

When District members encounter a fire related crime scene, all measures of corrective action should be taken to mitigate all threats involving life or imminent threat to life. Any possible measures to protect evidence, crime scene areas and areas of origin should be taken. Once corrective and mitigation efforts have been completed, the scene shall be secured.

303.4.1 SCENE SECURITY

Scene security shall be taken for all crime scenes involving fire. The property or area involved shall be properly secured to protect the scene for disturbance. Entry shall be denied to the crime scene without the approval of the crime scene investigators or the IC.



RIVER DELTA FIRE DISTRICT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

Chapter 3: Scene Preservation

REVISED: 10/5/2025

303.4.2 ENTRY LOG

An entry log shall be initiated by the I.C. or on-scene Investigator and maintained with personnel dedicated to scene entry and maintenance. The entry log shall maintain record of the date, entrytime, purpose for entry and exit time of all person accessing the controlled area of the crime scene.

303.5.2 GENERAL CRIME SCENES

When District members encounter a general crime scene, all measures of corrective action should be taken to mitigate all threats involving life or imminent threat of life. Any possible measures to protect evidence and crime scene areas should be taken. Once corrective and mitigation efforts have been completed, the scene shall be secured and direction followed of the lead investigative agency of the crime scene. Re-entry to crime scenes shall not take place without the approval of scene investigators and the IC.