

Planning salvage operations National Property Board Sweden

Salvage operations (abbreviated in Swedish "RVR") can become necessary if a building and/or its contents in some way are damaged. It is often needed as a result of a fire but is also performed subsequent to water and storm damage or sabotage etc.

Salvage operations comprise working actively to minimize damages on the building and/or its effects.

The incident commander of the emergency services is obligated to inform the building owner and/or occupant about the need for salvage operations, and surveillance after fire department operations is completed.

For other types of damages, the initiative falls on the building owner and/or the occupant.

It is necessary to carry out a certain amount of pre-planning before salvage operations begin. Documented steps below shall be included.

Depending on factors such as size of the building, complexity, cultural historical value make pre-plans more or less extensive.

At certain very sensitive object-locations additional equipment can be needed, for example, the Royal Castle in Stockholm is equipped with a special salvage vehicle.

STEP	ACTION	COMMENTARY
1	Salvage officer (RVR-officer)	The salvage officer is a specially trained fire officer in charge of salvage operations – involving both the building and its contents. He is alerted via phone: 020-322 322 See appendix 1.
2	Assembly point for evacuated effects. <i>Reconnoiter</i> a suitable location.	Should be within a reasonable distance to minimize transport organization and transport time. The location should be lockable and have access to electricity for climate control of the indoor environment. The location can sometimes be used for decontamination of the evacuated effects. Alternative solutions can be container storage. A list of available container rental services and transport service companies can be

		useful.
3	Protective- and evacuation equipment for emergency operations	<p>The amount of salvage equipment is dependent on the building size and the amount of damaged effects needed to be evacuated.</p> <p>Following equipment should be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plastic foil • plastic tarpaulin • nailgun • hammer and nail • silver tape • moving boxes • large plastic bags – preferable extra strong • plastic bags • bubble wrap on a roll and bags • box tape on a holder • knives • plastic foil such as. “Glad-Pack” (for books) • drygel • tools to remove paintings <p>The equipment shall be stored inside a special locked location.</p>
4	Heavier equipment	<p>Other materials can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water vacuum cleaner • fans • dehumidifiers • lighting • electric aggregates • building materials <p>These types of equipment are normally found at decontamination equipment businesses or construction supply companies. Therefore, it is suitable to do a company inventory.</p>
5	List of contacts – decontamination companies	It is suitable to contact area insurance companies that usually have a good overview concerning qualified companies. Alternative companies are found in the Yellow Pages
6	List of contacts –	After fire department have left the fire

	surveillance companies	scene responsibility of the building falls on the owner – and if necessary – guarding the building. If the scene is considered a crime scene the police has the responsibility of guarding the building.
7	List of contacts – specialists on cultural historical buildings and their contents.	In an emergency situation, good advice can prove to be of great value – especially concerning cultural historical value. Certain specialist competency is listed. See appendix 2
8	List of contacts – landlord/tenant	It is appropriate to have phone numbers in an operational plan to several individuals representing SFV respectively the landlord. If possible, all phone numbers shall be listed – work, home, weekend cottage och cellular phone.
9	Operations planning – damage to building	Systematic fire protection approach – <i>In Fire protection design documentation</i> developed for certain buildings a cultural historical assessment can be found. This documentation reveals what parts of a certain building is most valuable and what is particularly sensitive to damage. This information shall also be available on the operational plan used by the fire department. This information shall also be relayed during fire department visits on site.
10	Operations planning – effects	It is normally the occupant/tenant’s responsibility for effects inside the building. It is of great importance that the operational plan clearly shows where sensitive and valuable places are located within the building. The operational plan can be complemented with a separate photo documentation showing actual items stored inside the building. If certain routines for preserving effects exist they shall be displayed in the photo documentation.

11	Identity control	On the incident scene one must be able to identify all entitled personnel allowed inside the closed area. It is appropriate, for example, to use pre-printed ID-tags or colored numbered vests displaying the organization name.
12	Personnel protective gear	Protective overalls (disposable), protective helmets, gloves and boots for the own personnel.

Best Regards

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