

The Woodlands Fire Department Operational Guidelines

SR-08 – ODOR INVESTIGATIONS

1.0 PURPOSE

To provide for a safe, standardized response to odor investigations.

2.0 RESPONSE

The initial assignment for an odor investigation is one (1) company. Apparatus and personnel should not position directly in front of the dispatched location.

3.0 INVESTIGATION

3.1 Two (2) personnel in full protective gear shall investigate the odor. A combustible gas detector shall be used to determine if a flammable gas is present. If the presence of a flammable gas is detected, the team shall return to the apparatus to plan for scene mitigation and refer to SR-09, Flammable Gas Emergencies.

3.2 The DOT ERG should be referenced as a basic guide for these incidents. A minimum number of personnel should be allowed to enter the area to size-up the situation.

A. Attempt to locate and identify the source of the odor and any shutoff devices available.

3.3 If other than a flammable gas is suspected or detected, the investigation team shall immediately don their SCBA and initiate a Hazardous Materials incident response.