




# City of Phoenix

FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

## Explanatory Policy – Smoke Removal Systems

<b>SUBJECT:</b> Post fire salvage and overhaul operations	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> July 19, 2019
<b>REFERENCES:</b> The Phoenix Fire Code (2018 Edition) Section 919	<b>REVIEW DATE:</b> July 2022
<b>APPROVED:</b>  John Mertens, Fire Marshal	

**Scope:**  
This policy covers clarification on Section 919.1(1) exception 2, *“Windows shall be permitted to be fixed provided that glazing can be cleared by fire fighters.”*

**Policy:**  
The City of Phoenix Fire Department does not allow breaking of windows for post fire smoke removal. Breaking of windows in High-Rise Buildings poses a fall hazard to firefighters, uncontrolled ventilation for products of combustion, and risk to the general public. In addition, Firefighter Overhaul and Salvage efforts are intended to improve building conditions and protect contents from unnecessary damage. The operational objective is to take the least evasive overhaul method as possible. Breaking windows is counterproductive to these efforts.

The elevator shaft is not an approved pathway of exhaust for post fire smoke removal.