**1.0 Purpose:**

The primary responsibility of the Safety Officer at every incident or training activity is to protect the safety of the members. This guideline will identify circumstances when the Tarrant County Fire & Arson Investigation Task Force will designate a safety officer. This guideline applies to all incidents and training.

1. **Responsibilities:**

It is the responsibility of each member to adhere to all safety rules, regulations, and procedures set forth by the Tarrant County Fire & Arson Investigation Task Force.

**3.0 Policy:**

It is the policy of this organization that all members expected to respond and function in areas of potential hazardous contamination shall be aware of fire scene safety hazards and report such hazards to the Safety Officer. Each member shall adhere to directives issued by the Safety Officer.

**4.0** **Procedure:**

* A Safety Officer shall be designated at each incident where investigators are conducting fire scene investigations.
* The appointed Safety Officer shall have received appropriate training as a Safety Officer.
* While ICS typically follows along the chain of command, the Safety Officer has the authority to correct unsafe actions or to remove responders from the threat of immediate danger.
* Should the Safety Officer take action to remove responders from the threat of danger, the Investigation’s Incident Commander must be advised as to the action taken and the reason for the action.
* The Safety Officer has the authority to *alter, suspend, or terminate unsafe acts or hazardous activities.*
* The Safety Officer is responsible for identifying and communicating existing or potential hazards that do not present an imminent threat to responder safety to assure incorporation of these potential hazards by the Investigation Incident Commander into the ongoing incident action plan.
* Every member bears full responsibility for adherence to this guideline.

**5.0** **Definitions:**

The Safety Officer is an essential component of the Incident Command System (ICS) under which the Tarrant County Fire & Arson Investigation Task Force Operates. The Safety Officer monitors and assesses safety hazards or unsafe situations and develops measures for ensuring personnel safety.