

**2 IN/2 OUT**

**Purpose:**

To establish guidelines that will serve to provide a safe working environment for all personnel and to reduce the risk of injury or death as a result of department operations at emergency incidents. This guideline will serve to comply with the 2 In/2 Out provisions in the OSHA Respiratory Protection Final Rule (29 CFR Part 1910).

**Definitions:**

- A. IDLH (Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health): An atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible health effects or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.
- B. RIT (Rapid Intervention Team): A team of firefighters assigned the specific task of locating and rescuing firefighters that are in distress.
- C. Incipient Stage Fire: The first phase of fire development with the beginning being actual ignition and extending until heat, smoke and/or gasses make the atmosphere hazardous to life or health.
- D. PAR (Personnel Accountability Report): As defined in SOG #1400.6 Section B-4

**Guidelines:**

- A. The first arriving company shall determine if the incident involves an IDLH. At no time shall individuals enter an IDLH independently. Teams of at least two SCBA equipped personnel shall be required for entry into such an atmosphere at all times.
- B. In fire situations, it will be necessary for the Incident Commander to determine if the fire is in the incipient stage. A team of two qualified firefighters may take action according to standard operating guidelines to extinguish an incipient fire without the establishment of an IRIT (Initial Rapid Intervention Team).
- C. If the presence of an IDLH has been determined and there are less than four qualified firefighters on the scene, the companies shall wait until at least four qualified firefighters are assembled on the scene before initiating operations within the IDLH atmosphere. Two qualified firefighters may begin operating within the IDLH as long as two additional qualified firefighters (properly equipped) are outside the IDLH to serve as the IRIT. One of the two IRIT members must be responsible for establishing Incident Command and the on-scene accountability system. The second IRIT member may be assigned other tasks and/or functions so long as

these tasks and/or functions can be abandoned, without placing any personnel at additional risk, if rescue or assistance is needed.

- D. Members operating in the IDLH must use an SCBA and work in teams of two or more. They must also maintain voice or visual contact with each other at all times. Portable radios and/or safety rope tethering are not acceptable as replacements for voice or visual contact. Radios can and should be used for fireground communications, including communications between interior and exterior teams. They cannot, however be the sole tool for accounting for one's partner during interior operations. Team members must be in close proximity to each other to provide assistance in case of an emergency.
- E. Until four firefighters are assembled, operations outside of the IDLH shall commence immediately in accordance with standard operating guidelines. Such operations may include, but not limited to: establishment of water supply; exterior fire attack; establishment of a hot zone; utility control; ventilation; placement of ladders; forcible entry; exposure protection; and any other exterior operations deemed appropriate by the Incident Commander.
- F. As the incident progresses to the point of more than one interior team, an identified and dedicated Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) shall be established and positioned immediately outside the IDLH.

**Exceptions:**

- A. If upon arrival at a fire emergency, members find a fire in its incipient stage, extinguishment of such a fire shall be permitted with less than four persons on the scene. Extinguishment of outside fires such as dumpster, brush, or automobiles, shall be permitted with less than four persons, even if SCBA are being worn.
- B. If upon arrival at the scene, members find a imminent life-threatening situation or probable life-threatening situation where immediate action may prevent the loss of life or serious injury, such action shall be permitted with less than four persons on the scene when the probability of a rescue is made in accordance with normal size-up indicators and fireground evaluation factors. The Incident Commander shall evaluate the situation, considering the occupancy, time of day, day of week, reports from persons on the scene, signs that persons may be inside the structure, etc. Entry may be considered if signs indicate a probable victim rescue. In the absence of clear signs or a report from a responsible person on the scene that people are in the structure, it is to be assumed that no life hazard exists and interior attack shall not be initiated until the minimum four (4) persons arrive on the scene.
- C. If members are going to initiate actions that would involve entering an IDLH because of a probable or imminent life-threatening situation where immediate action may prevent the loss of life or serious injury, and personnel are not on the scene to establish an IRIT, the members should

carefully evaluate the level of risk that they would be exposed to by taking such actions. In all cases a minimum of two people shall form the entry team.

- D. If it is determined that the situation warrants immediate intervention and four personnel are not on the scene, the Incident Commander shall notify PSCC of the intent to enter the IDLH to effect an immediate rescue. Other responding units should acknowledge this action and set up an IRIT immediately after arrival.