

<b>SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT</b>		
<b>STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE</b>	<b>ARTICLE: II</b>	<b>SOP: 2112</b>
	<b>SECTION: 2100 SAFETY</b>	
	<b>SUBJECT: TWO-IN /TWO-OUT PROTOCOL</b>	

**Purpose:** To comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Cal-OSHA regulations specific to respiratory protection in Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) atmospheres, "Two-in/Two-out, Rule 29 CFR 1910 and 1926".

**Scope:** To be followed by all personnel when involved in the interior attack of structural firefighting beyond the incipient stage and any environment deemed IDLH or has a potential to become IDLH.

**Background:**

The Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued a revised standard regarding respiratory protection. A fire that is beyond the incipient stage is the benchmark for when the Two-in/Two-out rule applies, any fire which is beyond the initial or beginning stage and which cannot be controlled or extinguished by portable fire extinguishers, Class II standpipes or small hose systems without the need for protective clothing or breathing apparatus, is a fire that is considered by OSHA as *immediately dangerous to life and health*.

Further reference can be found regarding this protocol in the Santa Cruz County Fire Agency Mutual Aid Plan , "Fireground Safety System".

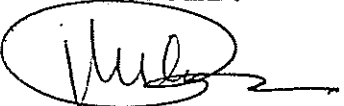
**Definitions:**

*Incipient Stage -*

"fire which is in the initial or beginning stage and can be controlled or extinguished by portable fire extinguishers, Class II standpipe or small hose systems without the need for protective clothing or breathing apparatus".

*PPE -*

Personal Protective Equipment, usually defined as full protective clothing and SCBA's.

<b>DATE:</b> 10/23/01	<b>APPROVED:</b> 	<b>PAGE 1 OF 3 PLUS 1 FORM</b>
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*IDLH -*

Immediately dangerous to life and health.

*Rescue in Progress -*

Refers to an incident situation requiring on-scene personnel to take action that places them at risk in an IDLH atmosphere without the backup of personnel to insure accountability and rescue for the fire personnel.

*PAR -*

Personnel Accountability Report - Typically a radio message advising the IC that all members are present and accounted for.

*RIC -*

Rapid Intervention Crew - Firefighters assigned to rescue downed firefighters.

*IRIC-*

*Initial Rapid Intervention Crew – IRIC is a temporary RIC team assigned at the onset of an incident to allow teams to enter an IDLH, potential IDLH, or unknown atmosphere. IRIC can be used synonymously with “Two-out”.*

**Procedure:**

1. All interior structural firefighting attacks performed by fire personnel shall consist of a minimum of two (2) persons (buddy system) for interior attack operations and two (2) personnel on the outside of the structure otherwise known as IRIC.
2. Interior crews shall maintain visual or voice contact at all times. Radio or electronic contact shall not be substituted for visual or verbal contact.
3. IRIC (two-out) must be a minimum of two personnel, of which one must account for the interior crews and, if necessary, initiate a fire fighter rescue. Aside from this individual dedicated to tracking interior personnel, the other designated person(s) is permitted to take on other duties, such as incident commander in charge of the incident, safety officer, or equipment operator. However, the assigned tasks cannot be critical to the safety and health of any other person working at the incident.

<b>DATE:</b> 10/23/01	<b>APPROVED:</b> 	<b>PAGE 2 OF 3 PLUS 1 FORM</b>
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4. The monitoring of crews operating in the IDLH atmosphere may be accomplished by either direct voice, visual, or radio contact. The member assigned the duty of tracking IDLH personnel shall maintain a current knowledge at all times of the identity, quantity, and function of personnel working in the IDLH area.
  
5. IRIC crews must be present (on-scene) prior to interior crews entering the structure. Exterior personnel should be in the proper level of PPE with access to equipment for initiating a rescue.
  
6. It is advisable, depending on the size and complexity of the incident, to place an full RIC into service. (See SOP 2707, *Rapid Intervention Crews*).
  
7. Exception to these guidelines of the two-in/two-out rule shall be recognized as permissible where immediate action could prevent the loss of life due to a known life rescue is needed and the on-scene personnel will be committed to the rescue and removal of savable lives. *This exception could be triggered by a report of a person in danger or unaccounted for. This should not be confused with the standard practice of conducting a primary search.*
  
8. Prior to initiating a “rescue in progress”, the incident commander shall announce that a “rescue in progress” is taking place. The IC shall make the announcement on both the command and tactical frequencies. Command shall be transferred if the IC takes part in the rescue attempt.
  
9. IC will request resources to support and accomplish the rescue and control objectives.
  
10. When a crew enters an IDLH atmosphere without the recommended back-up personnel (IRIC), an exception report (attached) will be created and an officer will be assigned to investigate the incident. The findings of the investigation will be submitted to the fire chief within 24 hours after the time of the incident. The report shall include details of any attempted or actual rescue and what safety precautions were used. The report will be retained as a permanent record.

<b>DATE:</b> 10/23/01	<b>APPROVED:</b> 	<b>PAGE 3 OF 3 PLUS 1 FORM</b>
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