


# SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



<b>STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES DATE APPROVED: APPROVED:</b>	<b>ARTICLE: II</b>	<b>SOP: 2112</b>
	<b>SECTION: 2100 SAFETY</b>	
	<b>SUBJECT: TWO-IN / TWO-OUT PROTOCOL</b>	
	<b>03-23-26</b>	
		

## Purpose:

This document is intended to establish policy and procedures for emergency incident operations at structure fires to meet 29 CFR 1910.134 and CAL-OSHA, Title 8, Section 5144 (g).

## Scope:

This policy shall apply to interior structural firefighting where a working fire has burned past the incipient stage or while operating in an IDLH atmosphere.

The Two-Out team and Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) are separate entities and should remain independent unless reassigned by command.

Nothing in this policy prohibits firefighters from entering an IDLH environment prior to Two-Out being established to perform rescue operations when there is a reasonable belief that victims may be inside.

## 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.

### *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.

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

*RIC -*

Rapid Intervention Crew – A specifically designated, fully equipped, and trained rescue team(s) consisting of a minimum of three (3) firefighters ready to immediately respond, and initiate rescue operations for injured, trapped, or lost firefighters.

*Two-Out-*

Two-Out -is a temporary RIC team assigned at the onset of an incident to allow teams to enter an IDLH, potential IDLH, or unknown atmosphere.

**Procedures:**

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 Two-Out.
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. 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 assist with advancement of attack line, provide door control, soften structure, or deploy additional hose lines.
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. Two-Out 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 a 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.*

**SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT**



**STANDARD  
OPERATING  
PROCEDURES**

**ARTICLE: II**

**SOP: 2112**

**SECTION: 2100 SAFETY**

**SUBJECT: TWO-IN / TWO-OUT PROTOCOL**

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 (Two-Out), an exception report 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.

\*Two Out is in place to assist with and/or effect the rescue of the interior firefighting personnel who may become endangered. Two Out will deploy in the event of a Mayday incident. If Two Out makes entry, a replacement Two Out or RIC should be assigned by Command.

\*Once the incident is under control and the IDLH is eliminated, or the RIC is established, Two Out may be reassigned or disbanded by the IC.