

2 IN 2 OUT STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

DATE APPROVED: May 2007

I. SCOPE

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

II. POLICY

To operate as safely and effectively on emergency scenes as possible, the South River District Volunteer Fire Department has established the following procedures which shall be adhered to by all personnel.

III. DEFINITIONS

IDLH Atmosphere: An atmospheric concentration of any toxic, corrosive or asphyxiant substance that poses an immediate threat to life or would cause irreversible or delayed adverse health effects or would interfere with an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

Rapid Intervention Team (RIT): A specifically designated team (minimum two members) designed to provide personnel for the rescue of emergency service members operating at emergency incidents if the need arises.

Incipient Fire: A fire in the initial or beginning stage of which it starts.

PAR: Personnel Accountability Report.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. The first arriving company shall determine if the incident involves an "IDLH atmosphere". At no time shall individuals enter an IDLH atmosphere independently. Teams of at least two (2) 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 to extinguish an incipient fire without the establishment of an initial Rapid Intervention Team (RIT).

- C. If the presence of an "IDLH atmosphere" has been determined, two qualified firefighters may begin operating within the IDLH atmosphere as long as two additional qualified firefighters (properly equipped) are outside the IDLH atmosphere to serve as the initial rapid intervention team (RIT).
- D. Members operating in IDLH atmospheres must use 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 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. Team members must be in close proximity to each other to provide assistance in case of an emergency.

V. EXCEPTIONS

- A. Upon arrival at the scene, members find an 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 out a RIT in place. (Examples: report of persons inside, signs of persons inside, etc.)
- B. 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 RIT is in place.