



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT
Standard Operating Guideline
TWO IN - TWO OUT

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Purpose: To establish standard guidelines and procedures 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 GFD 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).

'Two in – two out' addresses a temporary team of at least two firefighters, fully equipped and trained, on standby outside the structure to provide assistance or rapid rescue, if needed. This team is only intended as a temporary, stand-by crew and is not intended for long term assignment where a formal Rapid Intervention Crew should be assigned.

Definitions

IDLH Atmosphere: An atmospheric concentration of any toxic, corrosive or asphyxiate 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. Any structure fire beyond the incipient stage is considered to be an IDLH atmosphere per OSHA.

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

PAR: Personnel Accountability Report as defined in GFD SOG 018.

Qualified Firefighter: Any individual passing the GFD physical & exam and Illinois Basic Operations Firefighter Certification.

Procedures:

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.

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 procedures to extinguish an incipient fire without 'two in - two out' in place.

If the presence of an "IDLH atmosphere" has been determined, and there are less than five (5) qualified firefighters on the scene, the companies shall wait until at least 5 qualified firefighters are assembled on the scene before initiating operations within the IDLH atmosphere. 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), and one person maintains the operation of the pump. One of the two initial RIT members must be responsible for establishing the on-scene accountability system. The second RIT 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.

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 tethering are not acceptable as replacements for voice or visual contact. Radios can (and should) be used for fire-ground communications, including communications between interior and exterior teams. They cannot, however, be the sole tool for accounting for one's partner during interior operations.



TWO IN - TWO OUT

Team members must be in close proximity to each other to provide assistance in case of an emergency.

Until five firefighters are assembled, operations outside of the IDLH atmosphere shall commence immediately in accordance with standard operating standards. Such operations include, but are 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.

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 atmosphere. This team shall be fully outfitted with protective clothing and SCBA with the air mask in a ready position to don, a portable radio, and other required rescue equipment. All team members will be dedicated to perform rescue and shall not be assigned other duties (except for incident accountability) unless a replacement team member is assigned. A charged hose line shall be dedicated to this team.

Exceptions

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 five persons on the scene. Extinguishment of outside fires such as dumpster, brush, or automobiles, shall be permitted with less than five firefighters, even if SCBA are being worn.

If 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 less than five firefighters on the scene when the probability of a rescue is made in accordance with normal size-up indicators and fire-ground evaluation factors. (Examples: report of persons inside, signs of persons inside, etc.)

The Incident Commander shall evaluate the situation, considering the degree of occupancy, time of day, day of week, reports from people 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 five (5) persons arrive on the scene.

If members are going to initiate actions that would involve entering an "IDLH atmosphere" 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 initial rapid intervention team, 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 (2) people shall form the entry team.

Should the incident commander on the scene deviate from this guideline, the actions taken shall be documented on the fire incident report and forwarded through the chain of command to the fire chief. The narrative of this report shall be by the incident commander and outline the reasons, rationale, justification, and end result of the deviation from the standard operating procedure. All information in the report shall be of enough depth so as to provide a comprehensive understanding of the actions taken.