



General Order Number: 06-03	Effective Date: January 2010
Division: Emergency Operations	
Chapter: 2 In, 2 Out and Rapid Intervention	
By Order of the Fire Chief: Marc S. Bashoor	Revision Date: N/A

POLICY

A procedure for the deployment and operations of personnel when functioning as a member of the Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) or 2 In, 2 Out crew. In accordance with NFPA 1500, Sec. 6-5, and OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134, the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department shall maintain a safe practice of 2 In, 2 Out structural firefighting and operations in Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmospheres. To further support the Department's responsibility for personnel safety, a Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) shall be established while engaged in interior structural firefighting and other IDLH or oxygen deficient atmospheres for the rescue of firefighting personnel.

DEFINITIONS

2 In, 2 Out – is a term used to describe an initial entry and standby team. The initial entry team (2 In) shall consist of two firefighters operating in a hazardous area or an IDLH atmosphere. The standby team (2 Out) shall consist of two firefighters outside of the hazardous area or IDLH atmosphere in accordance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134.

Initial Entry Team – is at least two personnel equipped with full protective clothing and qualified to participate in interior structural firefighting. These personnel must maintain constant visual and/or voice contact with each other while entering into the IDLH atmosphere.

Initial Stages of an Incident – includes the period of an incident where tasks are being undertaken by the first arriving company with an initial entry team assigned or operating in the hazardous area.

Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) – is a crew specifically designated by the Incident Commander at the scene of an emergency beyond the initial stages, consisting of a minimum of four personnel, one preferably being a Company Officer. The RIC shall be available for the rescue of firefighters should the need arise. Depending on the size and complexity of the incident, the Incident Commander shall establish one or more RICs. The RIC normally replaces or enhances the standby team, which was required during the initial stages of the incident.

Interior Structural Firefighting – is the physical activity of fire suppression, rescue or both, inside of buildings or enclosed structures which are involved in a fire situation beyond the incipient stage (fire growth beyond the first material ignited).

Immediate Danger to Life and Health (IDLH) - is an atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.



Known Life Hazard – is circumstances where responding personnel hear or see a person in distress, or receive reliable information from Public Safety Communications (PSC) or a bystander that someone is in the IDLH atmosphere.

Mayday – is a radio term used to alert the Incident Commander or other persons on the emergency scene that personnel are in an imminent life-threatening situation.

Oxygen Deficient Atmosphere – is an atmosphere with an oxygen content below 19.5% by volume.

Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) – is a term used to report the location, status, and welfare of personnel assigned to a given crew.

Standby Team – is at least two personnel who observe the initial entry team entering into the IDLH atmosphere and are available, trained, and equipped (including full protective clothing and SCBA) for immediate response to rescue the initial entry team. One of these individuals must maintain contact with the initial entry team visually, verbally, by signal line, or by radio. The second individual of the standby team may be assigned to other duties (Incident Commander, wagon driver, aid station, etc.).

PROCEDURES / RESPONSIBILITIES

1. 2 In, 2 Out

The 2 In, 2 Out procedures shall be implemented during the initial stages of any operation within an IDLH atmosphere. When the first arriving unit does not have sufficient personnel to implement 2 In, 2 Out, the second due engine shall be responsible to establish and maintain the 2 Out crew until relieved or reassigned by the Incident Commander. No operations in an IDLH atmosphere shall commence until 2 In, 2 Out is implemented, unless there is a known life hazard. Officers making the initial decision of entry, which is not in compliance with 2 In, 2 Out, may be required to justify his/her initial actions.

The 2 In, 2 Out procedure is for the protection of the initial entry team(s) and shall be maintained until the RIC is in service and the standby crew is reassigned by the Incident Commander.

2. Rapid Intervention Crew

The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department has implemented the RIC procedure as a standard practice for all emergency incidents having more than one team operating in a hazardous or IDLH atmosphere. There is a distinct difference between the 2 In, 2 Out and the RIC, and they should not be confused. Regardless of which unit is assigned at the RIC, the 2 IN, 2 Out requirement must be maintained by the standby crew on the scene until the RIC is ready to assume the RIC responsibilities unless there is a known life hazard.



A RIC shall be established anytime one of the following conditions exist:

- Structure fire where SCBA and 1 ½" hose line (or larger) will be used.
- Personnel are operating inside of an IDLH or potentially IDLH atmosphere.
- Incidents with the possibility of collapse or entrapment of personnel.
- Incidents where personnel might become lost or disoriented.
- When deemed necessary by the Incident Commander.

It shall be the responsibility of the Incident Commander to ensure the RIC has been established and is in place. The rescue squad or 3rd due ladder truck dispatched on the alarm shall be responsible for the RIC. When the rescue squad is needed for other operations due to arrival sequence or other factors, the Incident Commander shall ensure that the RIC duties are assigned to another responding special service.

The RIC shall only be used for duties related to the safe evacuation and rescue of public safety personnel. The Incident Commander shall request additional uncommitted resources if it appears that the incident is escalating and additional personnel may be needed. The RIC shall remain in close view or radio contact at all times and shall only carry out those assignments given by the RIC officer at the direction of the Incident Commander. On certain incidents, the RIC may be placed in a forward position to provide quickest access to the personnel operating in the hazard area. Such as:

- The floor below the fire on all high-rise or mid-rise building fires.
- Near the point of entry for personnel on large buildings such as shopping centers, schools, or warehouses.
- When deemed appropriate by the Incident Commander or RIC officer.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Incident Commander/Operations Officer shall maintain an awareness of the location and function of all Division/Group/Sector Officers. Division/Group/Sector and Company Officers shall know the exact location and function being performed of each unit and all personnel under their command. All personnel within the IDLH area are to ensure that their PASS device is operational and on by using their SCBA. They shall operate in teams of at least two personnel, one of which has a portable radio.

It shall be the responsibility of all crews to monitor changes in the stability and condition of the structure throughout the operation. Any changes (i.e., missing stairways, holes in the floor, open elevators, partial structural collapses, etc.) that could cause harm to the firefighters must be reported to the Incident Commander/Operations Officer. Safety hazards shall be communicated to all personnel via radio, and shall be roped off, blocked or a firefighter should be assigned (if safe to do so) to the area to deny entry.



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Upon arrival on the scene, the RIC Officer shall meet face-to-face with the Incident Commander/Operations Officer and be briefed on:

- The current plan of action that is in place.
- The location of all companies and Division/Group/Sector Officers operating within the structure.
- The location of the fire and possible areas of extension.

A copy of the building preplan shall be provided for the RIC by a member of the first due crew and a complete exterior assessment shall be conducted by a member of the crew to ensure familiarity with the building and identification of specific hazards, conditions, and obstructions. A complete size up shall be completed by the RIC officer. This shall include:

- Size/height of building
- Type of construction
- Occupancy
- Location of fire
- Location and number of operating personnel
- Points of entry and exit

The RIC officer shall remain in close view or radio contact with the Incident Commander at all times. He/she shall be responsible for developing the rescue plan based on the information provided during the briefing and size up. He/she will be responsible for ensuring that the Incident Commander is aware of any additional resources necessary to implement the rescue plan without delay.

The RIC officer shall be prepared to brief the Incident Commander and/or provide the rescue plan in writing if directed to do so. The rescue plan must ensure that sufficient egress is provided to the interior crews as soon as possible. This shall include ensuring at least one ladder is at each floor near the fire area, window bars are removed, door gates are opened, or any other obstruction to the swift evacuation of the building is addressed. When possible, the RIC shall not be used to accomplish these tasks if it will result in fatigue and an inability to carry out strenuous rescue efforts, which may be required.

The RIC officer shall be responsible to ensure that each member of the RIC has been briefed on the rescue plan and that each member understands their individual assignments.

The following resources will be compiled by the RIC at all working structural fires:

- Sufficient personnel to implement the plan.
- Spare SCBA with facepiece
- An uncommitted hose line
- Sufficient ground ladders
- 125' life line



- Forcible entry tools (flathead axe, haligan bar, rabbit tool, bolt cutters), lights, power saws, and other equipment deemed necessary
- One portable radio for each two-person team

After compiling the minimum resources noted above, the RIC shall work with the Incident Commander to obtain any other specialized equipment needed; stokes basket, hydraulic rescue tools, air bags, torches, collapse equipment, rappelling equipment, etc.

The RIC officer and personnel shall have a minimum of two portable radios. The RIC officer will be responsible for monitoring the radio for a mayday or other distress/safety messages, progress reports, changes in the interior and exterior conditions, urgent messages, etc.

Deployment of the Rapid Intervention Crew

When a swift rescue or recovery cannot be affected by interior crews, the Incident Commander shall notify PSC and deploy the RIC to the last known or reported location of the lost, trapped, or missing firefighter(s). The RIC officer shall obtain as much information as possible regarding the exact nature and problem and implement the rescue plan with any adjustments necessary. This includes determining how many firefighters are involved and if they are:

- Missing, lost, trapped, cut off by fire
- Injured or require immediate medical attention
- In need of immediate SCBA equipment

To assist in obtaining the above information, the acronym “LUNAR” shall be used.

- **L** Location (last known location including floor number, quadrant, etc.)
- **U** Unit (identification of the crew and their unit or sector assignment)
- **N** Name (name of the individuals that need rescue or recovery)
- **A** Assignment (the last known assignment given to the individuals)
- **R** Resources needed (what equipment is needed to implement the rescue plan)

PSC shall make a radio transmission with an alert tone on the operations channel, call for radio silence, and announce to all units that the RIC has been deployed. The transmission shall include the reason given by the Incident Commander, the last known location, unit number, name and assignment of the missing or trapped firefighter(s).

If it becomes necessary, a Rapid Intervention Task Force shall be requested by the Incident Commander upon the activation of the RIC. Resources requested shall conform to the need for establishing an additional RIC; EMS units commensurate with the number of possible victims, fire units for replaced or exhausted crew, etc.



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The Incident Commander shall establish a Rescue Group, normally this will be assumed by the RIC officer. He/she shall communicate progress being made by the RIC, any changing conditions on the interior, progress being made, and other resources needed.

The Incident Commander shall be the only one with the authority to cancel a RIC rescue operation. He/she shall contact PSC, which shall make a radio transmission that the RIC rescue operation has been canceled and that normal operations are continuing, all units are to resume normal radio operations.

REFERENCES

N/A

FORMS / ATTACHMENTS

N/A