

## Rapid Intervention/Two-In Two-Out

### 303.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to increase firefighter safety by implementing procedures for safeguarding and rescuing firefighters who are operating in environments that are immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH).

This policy applies to all members assigned to an incident and is designed to ensure immediate assistance for members who become lost, trapped or injured by adhering to the two-in/two-out standard and designating rapid intervention crews (RICs) (29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4); AAC § R20-5-602).

#### 303.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH)** - Any 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. Interior atmospheric conditions at structure fires beyond the incipient stage are considered IDLH, as are a variety of rescue types.

**Initial rapid intervention crew (IRIC)** - A team of at least two members located outside the IDLH atmosphere to initially monitor and provide emergency rescue for responders until a larger, more formalized rapid intervention crew (RIC) is created. One of the two members may be assigned to an additional role, as long as the individual is able to perform assistance or rescue activities without jeopardizing the safety or health of any firefighter at the incident. An IRIC is also known as two-in/two-out.

**Mayday** - The nationally adopted "call for help" term used to indicate that an emergency responder is in a situation of imminent peril where he/she is in need of immediate help.

**Rapid intervention crew (RIC)** - A formalized designated team of individuals or companies whose sole function is to prepare, monitor and provide for effective emergency rescue of responders in IDLH atmospheres.

### 303.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Blue Ridge Fire District to ensure that adequate personnel are on-scene before interior operations begin in any IDLH environment. However, nothing in this policy is meant to preclude firefighters from performing emergency rescue activities before an entire team has assembled.

### 303.3 PRE-DEPLOYMENT

Prior to initiating any fire attack in any IDLH environment with no confirmed rescue in progress, members shall ensure that there are sufficient resources on-scene to establish two-in/two-out procedures (29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4); AAC § R20-5-602).

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- (a) Members shall ensure that at least two firefighters using self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) enter the IDLH environment and remain in voice or visual contact with one another at all times.
- (b) At least two additional firefighters shall be located outside the IDLH environment.
  - 1. One of the two outside firefighters may be assigned to an additional role so long as the individual is able to perform assistance or rescue activities without jeopardizing the safety or health of any firefighter working at the incident.

### **303.4 INITIAL DEPLOYMENT**

During the initial phase of an incident, confirmed rescues should take priority. When a confirmed rescue is identified during the initial phase of an incident, emergency rescue activities may be performed before a designated IRIC has assembled.

All members operating in IDLH environments should be tracked and accounted for at all times, except when it would preclude firefighters from performing emergency rescue activities during the initial phase of the incident.

### **303.5 RIC DUTIES**

The RIC should be assembled from resources at the scene, whose sole function is to prepare for, monitor and provide effective emergency rescue for responders.

- (a) To the extent possible, visual and voice communication should be maintained between those working in the IDLH environment and the RIC outside the IDLH environment.
- (b) RIC members should not be involved in any other duties that divert attention or resources away from their primary mission of responder rescue.
- (c) Additional companies may be assigned to the RIC as conditions warrant. For large incidents with multiple points of entry, multiple RICs should be considered.

### **303.6 EMERGENCY DEPLOYMENT OF A RIC**

When a Mayday firefighter-down or firefighter-missing broadcast is transmitted, all non-emergency radio traffic should be cleared from the radio channels that the missing or trapped firefighter is using. Non-affected personnel should switch to other tactical frequencies. At least two individuals should be dedicated solely to monitoring the tactical channel. One person should be responsible for gathering information on the identity, location and condition of the trapped or missing firefighter, while the second person should communicate with the trapped or missing firefighter and offer support on the tactical channel.

For an emergency deployment of a RIC, a Rescue Group Supervisor position should be activated to coordinate the rescue as well as any fire activities in support of the rescue effort. Other divisions and groups may support the Rescue Group Supervisor's efforts by diverting fire spread through



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horizontal or vertical ventilation to draw fire away from the affected rescue areas and by placing hose streams to check fire spread and protect rescue efforts.

The RIC supervisor should notify the Rescue Group Supervisor before making entry for emergency rescue. The Rescue Group Supervisor should provide any assistance that is appropriate to the situation. Additional resources should be ordered as needed, including additional RICs, medical treatment and transportation groups or other organizational elements.