|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***REPLACE WITH YOUR MASTHEAD*** | | |
| **VFIS logo black JPG** | **SOG Title:** | |
| **SOG Number:** | |
| **Original Date:** | **Revision Date:** |
| **ABC Fire Department General Operating Guideline** | | |

**2-In, 2-Out**

***This is a sample of a standard operating guideline (SOG) on this topic. You should review the content, modify as appropriate for your organization, have it reviewed by your leadership team and if appropriate your legal counsel. Once adopted, make sure the SOG is communicated to members, implemented and performance monitored for effective implementation.***

**Policy:**

To operate as safely and effectively on emergency scenes as possible, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fire Department has established the following procedures which shall be adhered to by all operational personnel.

**Scope:**

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

**Definitions:**

**Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (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 (“Rescue the Rescuer”) if the need arises.

**Incipient Fire** – A fire in the initial or beginning stage.

**PAR** – Personnel Accountability Report.

**Procedure:**

The first arriving company shaIl determine if the incident involves an “IDLH atmosphere”. At no time shall individuals enter an IDLH atmosphere independently (free lancing). Teams of at least two (2) members wearing self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and personal protective equipment (PPE) equipped personnel shall be required for entry into a hazardous 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 (2) qualified firefighters may take action to extinguish an incipient fire without the establishment of a rapid intervention team (RIT).

* If the presence of an "IDLH atmosphere" has been determined, two (2) qualified firefighters (properly equipped and trained) are outside the IDLH atmosphere to serve as the RIT to rescue the rescuers if necessary. The Incident Commander (IC) and the pump operator can serve as the initial 2 out crew. Once additional personnel arrive, the IC and the pump operator shall be relieved for the 2-Out duty.
* Members operating in IDLH atmospheres must use SCBA and PPE working in teams of two or more. They must maintain voice or visual contact with each other, command and their division or group supervisors 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.

**Exceptions**

1. Upon arrival at the scene, if 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 without a RIT in place. (Examples: report of persons inside, signs of persons inside, etc.)
2. 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 attach shall not be initiate until the RIT is in place.

***This is a sample guideline furnished to you by VFIS. Your organization should review this guideline and make the necessary modifications to meet your organization’s needs. The intent of this guideline is to assist you in reducing exposure to the risk of injury, harm or damage to personnel, property and the general public. For additional information on this topic, contact your VFIS Risk Control representative.***

**References:**