

# Fresno Operational Area Rapid Intervention

## Standard Operating Guideline

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1.0 **Purpose:** To establish a guideline for the formation of Two-Out and their progression into Rapid Intervention.

1.01 **Scope:** All Emergency Response Personnel

1.02 **Definitions**

**Appropriately Equipped:**

In addition to the required personal protective clothing, appropriately equipped includes positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus and appropriate rescue equipment for removing Fire personnel who enter hazardous atmospheres.

**Emergency Traffic:**

Term used to clear radio channels used at an incident to allow for important radio traffic, i.e., firefighter emergency situation or an immediate change in tactical operations (offensive to defensive).

**IDLH Atmosphere:**

**Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health.** 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. Any structure fire beyond the incipient stage is considered to have an IDLH atmosphere. **Examples of identified Emergency Incidents**, that could require Two-Out, but are not limited to, would include:

- Structure Fires
- Hazardous Materials Incidents
- Complex Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue

**Incipient Stage Fire:**

A fire which is in the initial or beginning stage and which can be controlled or extinguished by portable fire extinguishers, Class II standpipe, or reel line, without the need for breathing apparatus.

**Interior Structure Fire Fighting:**

The physical activity of fire suppression, rescue, or both, inside of buildings or enclosed structures that are involved in a fire situation beyond the incipient stage.

**Mayday:**

The term used to clear designated channels used at an incident to make way for important radio traffic for a firefighter in distress, in need of immediate assistance/rescue.

**Personal Accountability Report (PAR):**

**Personnel Accountability Report** is a survey of fire ground resources to account for all personnel by assignment or unit.

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### Rapid Intervention:

Rapid Intervention is a group formed by combining Two-Out personnel with the company assigned to Rapid Intervention.

### Rapid Intervention Group:

Consists of a minimum of four (4) firefighters. This group will include the Two-Out and one (1) Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor, plus any additional personnel assigned to this group.

### Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor:

The officer designated by the Incident Commander as the Group Leader of Rapid Intervention. Unless otherwise directed, this is the officer of the company assigned to Rapid Intervention. A Chief Officer should be assigned this position as the incident dictates.

### Rescue Mode:

The action of firefighters entering into an IDLH without the establishment of Two-Out to save life.

### Two-Out:

Two appropriately equipped firefighters established outside the IDLH prior to firefighters working in an IDLH atmosphere, with the exception of rescue mode.

## 1.03 **Application**

The primary task of Two-Out and the Rapid Intervention Group is to respond to any firefighter reported in distress. The official term for firefighter in distress shall be "MAYDAY" (Reference: Operational Area Firefighter Emergency Standard Operating Guideline). The intent of this guideline is to establish Two-Out with a progression toward the Rapid Intervention Group for firefighter rescues at all incidents with an immediately dangerous to life or health IDLH atmosphere, or potentially IDLH.

All personnel entering an IDLH atmosphere shall operate utilizing a "Buddy System" and shall maintain voice or visual contact at all times. Radios or other electronic equipment shall not be used as a substitute for voice or visual contact.

Personnel shall not enter an IDLH environment until Two-Out or the Rapid Intervention Group has been established. At structure fires, where it is determined interior fire conditions are beyond the incipient stage, a minimum of two (2) firefighters are required to fill the Two-Out assignment using the guidelines listed below.

**Exception [Ref. Title 8 CCR 5144(g)]:** Personnel may initiate interior attack without establishing "Two-Out or Rapid Intervention" under the following conditions:

1. The fire is in the incipient stage and has not reached IDLH.

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2. The first-arriving firefighters on scene find an imminent life-threatening situation, where immediate action may prevent the loss of life or serious injury, (including civilian rescues).

Personnel initiating entry into an IDLH without establishing “Two-Out or Rapid Intervention” shall notify dispatch they are in “**Rescue Mode**”.

### 1.04 **Rapid Intervention Group Progression**

The progression of the Rapid Intervention Group shall occur in the following order:

1. Initial firefighter safety is provided by the Two-Out.
2. The Rapid Intervention Group is formed by combining the Two-Out members with the company assigned Rapid Intervention (minimum of 4 personnel). The officer of the company assigned Rapid Intervention will be referred to as the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor.
3. At the incident commander’s discretion, the Rapid Intervention Group should be expanded to include multiple engine or truck companies and one Chief Officer if available.

### 1.05 **Two-Out Guidelines**

Two-Out will be designated for firefighter safety as the first step toward the progression of a Rapid Intervention Group. Two-Out will be in place at the point of entry and established over the radio prior to any interior operations of an IDLH.

#### **Initial Arriving Officers**

1. Determine if IDLH conditions exist. On structure fires, determine if the fire is beyond the incipient stage.
2. Do not commit or assign personnel into an IDLH atmosphere prior to a Two-Out being established unless you arrive and declare “Rescue Mode”.
3. The Incident Commander is responsible for establishing the Two-Out over the radio declaring to all personnel that operations in the IDLH may be initiated.

#### **Two-Out Members**

1. Obtain a charged hose line of equal or greater size than the line utilized on fire attack.
2. Gather basic tools:
  - Wire Cutters
  - Webbing or Rescue Strap
  - Hand Tools (Irons)

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- Equipment from Rapid Intervention Tool Cache (optional)
3. Take a position near the entry point.
  4. One member of the Two-Out shall be dedicated to the tracking and accounting for personnel entering the IDLH atmosphere:
    - Unit, location and assignment
    - Time and place of entry
  5. Other firefighters assigned as part of Two-Out are permitted to take other actions, such as utilities or preparing for the establishment of Rapid Intervention. Two-Out personnel cannot initiate a task that would place any firefighter on the fire ground at additional risk should that task need to be immediately abandoned.

### **Two-Out Deployment**

Two-Out may deploy under the following conditions with an **immediate notification** to the Incident Commander or Operations Section Chief:

1. For a firefighter rescue.
2. Life-threatening situation where immediate action may prevent the loss of a life or serious injury, including a victim rescue.

### 1.06 **Rapid Intervention Group Guidelines**

The purpose of a Rapid Intervention Group is to provide for proactive fire ground tactics for firefighter safety and the rescue of firefighters. The Rapid Intervention needs for an incident must be reassessed as the incident progresses. The number of entry crew(s), geographical size of area(s), and number of entry points must constantly be monitored to ensure sufficient personnel are readily available to assist fire personnel working in the IDLH or hazard area.

Upon arrival and receipt of the Rapid Intervention assignment, personnel shall take the following actions:

#### **Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor**

The position of the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor is to maintain command and control of the personnel they are assigned. The Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor will be the Company Officer assigned to Rapid Intervention and is responsible for all Rapid Intervention operations on the incident. This includes all operations on all channels.

The initial officer assigned as the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor has the discretion to deploy with their crew or maintain command of Rapid Intervention outside the IDLH. It is preferred that the Rapid Intervention Company Officer deploy with their crew, and a qualified Officer assume command as the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor outside the IDLH.

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The Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor will report to the Incident Commander or Operations Section Chief. The Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor should remain mobile on the incident. Upon arrival, the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor should:

1. Make contact with Two-Out; absorb them into Rapid Intervention.
2. Ensure all Rapid Intervention members are:
  - Appropriately equipped
  - On the same radio channel
  - Know who is in charge of entry
  - Assigned a positional assignment (Rapid Intervention air pack, tools, search rope, etc.)
3. Perform a 360° size up of the incident and note:
  - Access points
  - Adequate egress is available
  - Building points to soften
  - Hazards for Command
4. Establish Rapid Intervention over the radio.
5. Request addition resources if needed to expand Rapid Intervention capabilities.
6. It is the responsibility of the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor to clarify crew radio designators within the Rapid Intervention Group. (See 1.07)

### **Rapid Intervention Personnel**

1. Confirm Two-Out has a rescue hose line immediately available for deployment.
2. Establish the Rapid Intervention equipment cache:
  - Rapid Intervention air pack or spare SCBA and mask
  - Carry All
  - Flashlights including one for entry point(s)
  - Chain and/or Circular saw(s)
  - Thermal Imaging Camera
  - Haligan and Flat Head Axe (Irons)
  - Search Ropes
  - Bolt Cutters
  - Wire Cutters
  - Door Wedges
  - Ladder or Stokes Basket (optional)

*Though a minimum equipment cache is identified, additional equipment may be added to the cache as necessary to augment rescue capabilities.*

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3. Provide for proactive tactics at the direction of the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor.
  - Soften the building (forcing exits, removing bars, opening doors, etc.)
  - Place narrow beam lights in exits
  - Providing alternate roof escape routes
  - Notifying the Incident Commander of hazards
4. Stage (See 1.09) and continue to monitor interior crew location(s) and tactical objectives, building on the information from the Two-Out members.

### 1.07 Expansion of Rapid Intervention

If the incident/structure is large enough to require entry at multiple locations or levels, or divisions are established with multiple entry points, additional Two-Out or Rapid Intervention Crews may be required for each point of entry.

If more than one Two-Out is required to safely support operations, they will be named based upon geographical positioning. For example, in a large single-story warehouse, Each Division may establish their own Two-Out. Each Two-Out would be assigned as: **Two-Out Alpha, Two-Out Bravo, Two-Out Charlie, or Two-Out Delta**. This is done to minimize confusion over the radio during operations.

If more than one Rapid Intervention Crew is required to safely support operations, or a Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor takes control of all Two-Out crews and reassigns Rapid Intervention Crews, they will be named based upon geographical positioning. Each geographical Rapid Intervention Crew may be composed of multiple fire companies. For example, in a large single-story warehouse, Rapid Intervention Crews are to be assigned as: **Rapid Intervention Alpha, Rapid Intervention Bravo, Rapid Intervention Charlie, or Rapid Intervention Delta**. The Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor is responsible to clearly identify who is in charge of each Rapid Intervention Crew.

In a multi-story incident with multiple levels of operations, the naming of the multiple Rapid Intervention Crews would be assigned by a numeric identifier to identify the floor they are responsible for. Each numerical Rapid Intervention Crew may be composed of multiple fire companies. For example: **Rapid Intervention 6** or **Rapid Intervention 4**. The Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor is responsible to clearly identify who is in charge of each Rapid Intervention Crew.

### 1.08 Rapid Intervention Deployment Procedures

The Rapid Intervention Group shall take the following actions when a Rapid Intervention deployment is initiated:

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## Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor

The Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor should remain mobile on the incident and take the following actions when a Rapid Intervention Deployment is initiated:

1. Deploy the Rapid Intention Crew(s).
2. Initiate the Rapid Intervention Checklist.
3. Request additional resources through Incident Command or Operations Section Chief to backfill the deployed Rapid Intervention Crew(s)
4. Request an aid if one has not been assigned.
5. Remain in constant contact with the deployed Rapid Intervention Crew(s) and the firefighter in distress.
6. Secure all entrances to the deployment area.
7. Size up access points, egress points, fire behavior, and current fire operations.

## Deployed Rapid Intervention Crew(s)

1. Ensure all Rapid Intervention Group members are on the same radio channel as the firefighter in distress.
2. Ensure all Rapid Intervention Group members are aware of their radio identifier. Rapid Intervention, Rapid Intervention Alpha, Division 3 Rapid Intervention, etc.
3. Confirm the rescue plan with all crew members, including positional assignments.
4. Notify the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor of the number of Rapid Intervention personnel making entry and entry point. Examples:
  - a. *“Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor, Rapid Intervention is making entry with three on the bravo side with a right handed search following the hose line.”*
  - b. *“Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor, Rapid Intervention Charlie is making entry with six with a right handed search following the hose line.”*
5. Make Entry.

### 1.09 Staging of Rapid Intervention Group

Two-Out and Rapid Intervention Group shall be located at a safe position, outside the IDLH/hazard area. **Two-Out and Rapid Intervention must still be able to monitor**

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conditions by visual observation and the communication of assigned personnel over the radio traffic.

Considerations of a staging location(s) for Rapid Intervention shall include:

- Initial entry point(s) of interior crew(s)
- Secondary egress points
- Hazards
- Building construction
- Size and layout of the building or hazard area(s)
- Number of personnel working in the hazard area(s)

In high-rise fire incidents, the Rapid Intervention Group should typically be located one floor below the fire-floor or point of entry for crews working in the IDLH or hazard areas. Another consideration for positioning Rapid Intervention in a high-rise could be at Staging. Either of these locations would allow for Rapid Intervention to be deployed in a timely manner without staging the Rapid Intervention Group in an IDLH environment.

### 1.10 **Disbanding of Two-Out or Rapid Intervention Group**

The disbanding of the Two-Out or Rapid Intervention Group component is critical information to disseminate to all personnel remaining at scene. When considering disbanding, the Incident Commander shall ensure the following points are considered:

- Two-Out or the Rapid Intervention Group shall not be disbanded until all IDLH atmospheres have been mitigated and all fire personnel are removed from all other incident hazards, i.e., building collapse.
- Complete a final PAR to account for all incident personnel prior to disbanding.
- Communicate the disbanding of the Two-Out or the Rapid Intervention Group to all incident personnel via the radio.
- Continually monitor the scene for a change of events or conditions that may necessitate the reassigning of a Two-Out or the Rapid Intervention Group.

### 1.11 **IDLH Report Form**

Initial attack operations shall be organized to ensure that, if upon arrival at the emergency scene, initial attack personnel find an imminent life-threatening situation which immediate action could prevent the loss of life or serious injury, such action shall be permitted without RIC being assembled when conducted in accordance with NFPA 1500. No exception shall be permitted when there is no possibility to save lives. Any such actions taken in accordance with this section shall be thoroughly investigated by the fire department with a written report submitted to the fire chief (NFPA 1500). The Company Officer/Acting Company Officer



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deviating from this guideline must complete the Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) Form before the completion of his/her shift. A copy of the form shall be sent to the on-duty shift Battalion Chief and a copy shall be sent to the Fire Chief. All completed IDLH forms received at Fire Headquarters (Fire Chief) will be placed in an IDLH file maintained at Fire Headquarters.

## **Cross References**

National Incident Management System Consortium Book 1 – First Edition  
National Fire Protection Association, 1500  
National Fire Protection Association, 1710  
National Fire Protection Association, 1407  
Fire Scope ICS-910  
Fire Scope ICS-420-1  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 CFR 1910 & 1926  
California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5144  
Command & Control Decision Making at Multiple Alarm Incidents, 2nd 2013 (NFA)  
Operational Area Firefighter Emergency Standard Operating Guideline