

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 while 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 groups (RIG) (29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4)).

303.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) - An atmospheric concentration of any toxic, corrosive or asphyxiant substance that to an unprotected person poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a hazardous area. Interior atmospheric conditions at structure fires beyond the incipient stage are considered IDLH, as are a variety of rescue types.

Initial rapid intervention group (IRIG) - A group 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 group (RIG) 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 IRIG is also known as two-in/two-out.

Rapid intervention group (RIG) - A formalized designated group 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 Fresno County Fire Protection 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 should ensure that there are sufficient resources on-scene to establish two-in/two-out procedures (29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4)).

- (a) Members should 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.

Rapid Intervention/Two-In Two-Out

- (b) At least two additional firefighters should 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

A written personnel accountability system will be maintained whenever companies are operating at IDLH incidents. Individual crew names will be posted in a conspicuous location in the cab of district vehicles.

During the initial phase of an incident, confirmed rescues should take priority. When a confirmed rescue is in progress during the initial phase of an incident, emergency rescue activities may be performed before a designated IRIG 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 RIG DUTIES

The RIG 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, voice and signal line communication should be maintained between those working in the IDLH environment and the RIG outside the IDLH environment.
- (b) RIG members should not be involved in any other duties that divert attention or resources away from their primary mission of responder rescue.
 - 1. Acceptable duties may include identifying and preparing access and emergency rescue egress points from affected areas, the pre-positioning of exterior ladders, forcible entry and other rescue equipment as needed at strategic locations.
- (c) Additional companies may be assigned to the RIG as conditions warrant. For large incidents with multiple points of entry, multiple RIGs should be considered.

303.6 EMERGENCY DEPLOYMENT OF A RIG

When a 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 trapped or missing firefighter, while the second person should communicate and offer support on the tactical channel.

Fresno County Fire Protection District

Policy Manual

Rapid Intervention/Two-In Two-Out

For an emergency deployment of a RIG, a Rescue Branch Director 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 Branch Director's efforts by diverting fire spread through 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 RIG supervisor should notify the Rescue Branch Director before making entry for emergency rescue. The Rescue Branch Director should provide any assistance that is appropriate to the situation. Additional resources should be ordered as needed, including additional RIGs, medical treatment and transportation groups or other organizational elements.