

4.5 Interior Firefighting Procedures



City of Oak Point Department of Public Safety Fire Department

TITLE: Interior Firefighting Procedures

SECTION/TOPIC: General Operations

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These SOPs/SOGs are based on FEMA guidelines FA-197

1.0 PURPOSE

To provide the proper procedures, adapted by the OPDPS Fire Department, to its members of interior firefighting.

2.0 SCOPE

This SOP/SOG pertains to all personnel in this organization.

3.0 POLICY/GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

Definitions: IDLH - IDLH is an acronym for Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health, and is defined by the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) as exposure to airborne contaminants that is "likely to cause death or immediate or delayed permanent adverse health effects or prevent escape from such an environment."

The OSHA regulation (1910.134(b)) defines the term as "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."

Policy:

- In the initial stages of an incident where only one team is operating in the IDLH atmosphere of interior structural firefighting, a minimum of four individuals are required. This consists

of a two man team work in the IDLH area and at least two personnel present outside for assistance or a RIT team. **2 IN / 2 OUT**

- An interior entry team consisting of at least two firefighters with proper PPE and SCBA must:
 - Work as a team
 - Maintain voice or visual contact
 - Maintain radio contact with IC
(All are required for interior firefighting ops)
- The RIT team is responsible for maintaining awareness of the number of and identity of personnel operating in IDLH area of incident. Including teams operating location, function, and time of entry. The RIT team must stay in radio, visual, or voice contact with command and listen for any MAYDAY or emergency traffic.
- The RIT team will be dedicated to rapid intervention until relieved. Team will be located near the entry point of the last interior team. RIT team must be in full PPE, including SCBA and ready to go.
- In the case of under staffing, one RIT team member may be permitted to perform other duties outside of IDLH area, such as apparatus operator or IC, as long as:
 - Constant communication in between RIT team and interior crews
 - These other duties do not prohibit a rapid intervention of the interior crew
 - Abandoning other duties do not place any personnel in danger
 - The RIT team member has full PPE and SCBA immediately accessible and is donned prior to entry into IDLH area
- The assignment of any personnel to the RIT team will not be permitted if, by abandoning their critical task(s) to provide emergency intervention, they clearly in danger the safety and health of any personnel working at that incident

EXCEPTIONS TO 2 IN / 2OUT:

- The fire is in the **incipient** stage
- Upon arrival to incident, there is an imminent **life-threatening situation**, the officer in charge will evaluate the situation and perform a risk VS benefit analysis in order to perform a rescue. If initial arriving units find a known life hazard or known rescue situation and immediate actions could prevent the loss of life and/or serious injury, than deviation from **2 IN / 2 OUT** is permitted within the following parameters:

- Risk factors must be evaluated by IC in a timely manor
 - The location, stage and size of fire
 - Capabilities of on-scene resources
 - Ability to affectively rescue given the previous two factors
- The IC will notify dispatch by radio that a rescue is being attempted with less than four personnel on scene
- Dispatch will notify in coming units with the same information
- After a search of the structure or rescue of victims, personnel are to withdraw from the structure until sufficient personnel arrive
- All deviations from this policy (**2 IN/2OUT**) will be documented and a written report submitted to the Fire Chief

RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCIES: In the absence of a report, from a credible source, that everyone is out of the occupancy, it will be assumed that a life hazard exists until a primary search is completed or if proven otherwise.

NON-RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCIES: The company officer will have to evaluate the situation considering the type of occupancy, time of day, day of the week, and credible reports by witnesses on scene. Otherwise still should be considered that a life hazard exist until a primary search can be completed or proven otherwise.

VACANT OR ABANDONED STRUCTURES: Entry into IDLH area with less than four personnel will not be allowed unless there are clear signs or credible reports of a life hazard in the structure.

- Members who arrive at a working structure fire prior to having sufficient personnel necessary to initiate interior operations, may perform exterior actions in preparation for the interior attack. These actions include, but are not limited to:
 - Establishing a water supply
 - Disconnecting utilities
 - Placing ladders
 - Laying attack line to entry point of IDLH area
 - Initiating exposure protection
 - Set up a rehab area
 - Establish a staging area