



**Effective Date: October 1, 2009**

**Revision Date:**

## **Bastrop County Emergency Services District No. 1**

### **Standard Operating Procedures**

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**Title: Two-In, Two-Out Compliance, Rapid Intervention Team, and Firefighter Survival**

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**Originator – Fire Chief (Signature/Date):** \_\_\_\_\_

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#### **TWO-IN, TWO-OUT**

The following procedures are intended to ensure the highest possible level of safety when crews are working inside any environment where firefighting personnel are subject to hazards that would be immediately dangerous to life and/or health in the event of equipment failure, sudden change of conditions, disorientation, lost, trapped, or other mishap's that may arise unexpectedly.

NO entry will be made into an atmosphere that is immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH), potentially IDLH, or an unknown atmosphere until a minimum of four firefighters have arrived on scene. The entry team will consist of a minimum of two firefighters working together as a team, maintaining voice or visual contact at all times. NO entry team may enter the hazard area or Hot Zone without SCBA's and a portable radio. The exterior team will consist of a minimum of two firefighting personnel, standing by outside the structure to perform rapid rescue if needed.

If there are only two exterior team members present, one member may be engaged in activities such as apparatus operation or incident command, but the other must be free to account for the entry team. This member must be suitably equipped to make entry and initiate a rescue if necessary.

In cases where the first arriving apparatus at a structure fire has less than four personnel, the company officer shall initiate exterior operations that are appropriate for the situation. These actions may include incident command, size-up, hose line deployment, water supply establishment, etc.

Exceptions can be made to these procedures under the following conditions:

- A. Entry can be made if the fire is in the incipient stage and can be controlled or extinguished by a portable extinguisher, and the atmosphere is judged to be such that it could be entered safely without the benefit of personal protective equipment and SCBA.
- B. Entry may be made if first arrival of personnel find a known life hazard or known rescue situation and immediate action could prevent the loss of life or serious injury.
  1. When entry is made with fewer than four personnel on scene to make a rescue, the Incident Commander SHALL notify dispatch and all incoming units by radio of this situation.
  2. After completing a search and/or rescue, firefighting personnel are to withdraw from the structure until two-in, two-out procedures can be implemented.

Compliance with the two-in, two-out standard is automatic upon arrival of a four person engine company at the scene of a fire, or one can be established with arriving resources.

At all incidents where a Hot-Zone operation is underway, the Incident Commander will establish a Rapid Intervention Team at the earliest possible time.

### **RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM (RIT)**

The objective of these procedures is to provide for a fully equipped rescue team on scene, in a ready state, to immediately react and respond to rescue injured or trapped firefighters or civilians. A RIT crew is to be provided by the Incident Commander any time fire department crews are inside a hazardous environment.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Interior structural fires beyond the incipient stage of growth
- Hazardous materials incidents
- Trench rescue
- Confined space rescue
- Any other incident having significant risk

A RIT shall consist of at least two members and be equipped with the appropriate protective clothing, SCBA, a spare SCBA (for rescue purposes), portable radio, two forcible entry tools, and any specialized rescue equipment that might be needed given the specifics of the operation

underway. In some cases, protective hose lines may need to be deployed or ground ladders set. Forcible entry may need to be made. It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander and the RIT to evaluate the situation and prepare appropriately. More than one RIT may be needed depending on the size and complexity of the incident. If personnel are not available to meet appropriate RIT needs, the Incident Commander is responsible to call for additional resources as needed; mutual aid companies may be utilized for this purpose.

Once assigned, RIT personnel should obtain a detailed briefing from the IC or the RIT they are relieving. They will assume a ready state and MUST have the ability to rapidly deploy; they will therefore, be unavailable for other tasks. If a RIT is deployed for a rescue, they should be augmented by an additional RIT as soon as possible in order to back up crews involved in the rescue.

After the incident becomes stabilized to the point that the RIT is no longer necessary, the RIT personnel may be assigned to other tasks as needed.

### **FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL**

The nature of fire fighting places the firefighter at risk of becoming lost or trapped. The toxic environment provides only a narrow window of survivability. Survival depends on a mix of predictable self-survival actions by the lost firefighter and by the IC.

In order to minimize the possibility of lost/trapped situations:

1. All crews entering the hazard zone must have a portable radio
2. Minimum crew size is two
3. Crews MUST stay intact
4. Accountability procedures must be followed

In the event that a firefighter becomes lost or trapped, a standardized pattern of events should occur so that rescuers are able to anticipate their actions. The lost/trapped firefighter(s) should therefore:

1. Call for help immediately. Do not delay notification of distress. Notifications should occur as soon as you THINK you may be in trouble by utilizing the radio message "Mayday"!
2. The firefighter should then manually activate the distress signal of your PASS device and leave it on until rescued. Only turn the device off if it interferes with radio transmissions, and reactivate it as soon as messages are complete.
3. Maintain crew integrity (together) at all times

4. Search for an exit. Attempt to get out of the building by whatever means possible. If no exit can be found, attempt to find an exterior wall and position yourself in an area likely to be searched; doorways, hallways, stairways. Avoid large open interior spaces. If a protected area or room can be found, try to position yourself there.
5. Stay calm and conserve air. Make a conscious effort to control breathing and eliminate unnecessary talking or physical movement.
6. If SCBA air becomes depleted, use a protective hood to cover the face piece inhalation valve attachment area to act as a filter.
7. Attempt to position a flashlight beam toward the ceiling. This will enhance the rescuer's ability to see the light and locate you.

The "Mayday" radio message is to be used ONLY to report a lost or trapped firefighter. All other emergencies shall use the term "emergency traffic". **Any report of a "Mayday" will receive priority radio traffic followed by emergency traffic notification.** Dispatch will then inform all responding units that a firefighter rescue is underway. Anytime the "Mayday" message is used, **the primary focus of all operations at the scene will shift to locating and rescuing the lost/trapped firefighter.** The IC SHALL request additional personnel/mutual aid immediately upon learning of a lost/trapped firefighter.

#### **TRAINING OF PERSONNEL IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS POLICY**

All personnel will annually attend a minimum of 2 hours of training on this policy to assure that they are familiar with and understand their responsibilities and duties of the ICS.