

## **TWO (2) IN TWO (2) OUT**

### **Purpose:**

To establish procedures that insure the highest level of fire ground safety when operating in an atmosphere that is immediately dangerous to life and health as found in interior structural fire fighting.

### **Definitions:**

- ✦ **Entry Team:** A minimum of two (2) firefighters with SCBA'S, working together as a team, maintaining voice or visual contact, performing rescue and or fire fighting operations in the interior of a structure. (May also be referred to as a group with an assigned group leader.)
  
- ✦ **Incipient Stage Fires:** A fire in the initial or beginning stage which can be controlled or extinguished by a portable fire extinguisher, Class II standpipe or small hose without the need for protective clothing or SCBA.
  
- ✦ **Rapid Intervention Team (RIT):** A minimum of two (2) firefighters equipped and trained on standby outside the structure to provide assistance or perform rapid rescue. One of the exterior crew members must be free of all other tasks in order to account for personnel and initiate a rescue of entry teams inside the structure. The second exterior crew member may perform other tasks such as safety officer, or equipment operator, etc.
  
- ✦ **Rapid Intervention Team Leader:** A firefighter assigned by the incident commander to be in charge of the Rapid Intervention Team. This person shall be referred to as RIT Leader.

**"Mayday":** A universal term used to call for help.

### **Guidelines:**

Prior to initiating interior fire fighting operations, a minimum of four (4) firefighters shall be on the scene, unless entry is made while a fire is in the incipient stage. If the fire is past the incipient stage and an entry team is required to initiate interior structural fire fighting operations, a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) shall be created by the incident commander. The incident commander shall name a RIT leader and designate a location for the RIC to stage. If at all possible, the RIT should be staged at the command post assigned to monitor the radio frequency for a "Mayday" call. A "Mayday" call shall trigger immediate silence on the radio so command can communicate with the caller in distress. The RIT shall not be assigned any other task that would take them away from their primary duty as an emergency rescue crew. The incident commander may increase the size of the RIT as conditions and personnel warrant it. If the RIT is deployed into the building, the incident commander shall create another RIT, if possible.

**Example of Four Firefighters on the scene requiring an Interior Fire Attack:** Engine 41 is the first unit on the scene of a structure fire. The Officer will become the incident commander and RIT leader, the pump engineer will become the other RIT member. The two firefighters will become the entry team.

**Exception to the Policy:** When arriving personnel find a known life hazard or known rescue situation and immediate action could prevent the loss of life or serious injury, deviation from this policy is permitted with the following guidelines.

- ✘ The incident commander shall notify all other responding units that entry is being made with less than four firefighters.
- ✘ After completing a search of the structure or rescue of the occupants, firefighters are to withdraw from the structure until 2 in - 2 out can be implemented.
- ✘ All deviations of the 2 in - 2 out policy shall be documented and a written report submitted to the Fire Chief.

**Responsibilities:**

Incident Commander: Responsible to create a rapid intervention crew, appoint a crew leader and create a RIT Accountability Tag Board.

Rapid Intervention Team Leader: Responsible for directing and coordinating the RIT activities, securing tools and equipment for rescue, ensuring that all RIT members have turned in name tags for accountability to the command post.

The following is a list of the minimum tools and equipment needed by the RIT. This list shall not limit the RIT leader in securing additional equipment as the situation dictates.

- ✘ Search rope, axe, pry tool
- ✘ Full protective clothing and SCBA
- ✘ Portable Radio
- ✘ Thermal imaging camera