

# Lake Jericho Volunteer Fire and Rescue

## Standard Operating Guideline

**Subject:** Interior Structural Firefighting, (Two In / Two Out)  
**Effective Date:** January 1, 2010  
**Authorized By:** Chief Guy Coombs

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### I. Purpose:

*To establish procedures that ensure the highest level of fire ground safety when operating in an atmosphere that is immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH), such as is found in interior structural firefighting.*

### II. Background:

There is current law that incorporates OSHA 1910, the “two-in / two-out” standard. This law will enhance firefighter safety by providing for a stand-by team of at least two firefighters outside of the structure during interior structural firefighting.

- Incipient stage fire: a fire that is in the initial or beginning stage and that can be controlled or extinguished by portable fire extinguishers, Class II standpipes or small hose systems, without the need for protective clothing or breathing apparatus. (421.5[24])
- Interior structural 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. These conditions involve an Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmosphere. (421.5[25])
- Interior Team: Minimum of two members in full PPE and SCBA, in constant visual or voice (no radio) contact with one another.
- Outside Team: Minimum of two members outside the IDLH atmosphere who are prepared to effect rescue of the Interior Team. They will wear full PPE and SCBA (with mask readily available). They must be in visual or voice (including radio) contact with the Interior Team. They are designated as the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT).

### III. Policy:

- A. The Incident Commander (IC) will ensure that a Rapid Intervention Team is present anytime members are engaging in interior structural firefighting. The exception to this is outlined in III.F. below.
- B. The IC will ensure that all members operating within an IDLH atmosphere are wearing full PPE and are using an SCBA. He or she will further ensure that the Interior Team is in radio contact with the Outside Team or RIT, when established.
- C. Interior Team members will remain in visual or voice contact with one another at all times.
- D. Interior structural firefighting operations will not begin until two members are available outside the structure to effect rescue of the Interior Team, if necessary (an exception is outlined in III.F.). One of these Outside Team members (radio equipped) will receive no assignments beyond the monitoring of, and rescue of, the Interior Team.
- E. The second member of the Outside Team may be assigned to other tasks, so long as these tasks or functions are in proximity to the entry area for possible rescue, and these tasks or functions can be immediately set aside if rescue is necessary.
- F. The Interior Team may make entry into an IDLH atmosphere without an Outside Team available only if:
  - 1. There is reasonable suspicion that an occupant in danger of injury or death is within the structure;
  - 2. They comply with the PPE and SCBA requirements outlined above, and stay within visual or voice contact with one another;
  - 3. They notify Dispatch and Incoming Resources that they are entering for a possible rescue, and no Outside Team is available;
  - 4. They exit the structure as soon as they ascertain the Life Safety hazard to the occupants no longer exists, unless additional resources arrive and advise the Interior Team that they have assumed the RIT Team role.

### IV. Procedure:

- A. The first arriving units/personnel will designate an Incident Command (ICP) Post and establish Incident Command (IC).
- B. The IC may have to assume the role of an Interior Team member, especially when an imminent rescue is needed.
- C. No less than two members will make up the Interior Team under any circumstances (refer to III.D for more information).

D. An Outside Team or RIT will be established as soon as practically possible depending on tactical demands and resource availability.