



SEDONA FIRE DISTRICT

**STANDARD OPERATING
PROCEDURE #323**

OSHA – Two In / Two Out Rule and Application

I. Purpose.

To establish guidelines for the implementation of OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134, Two In/Two Out Rule and its application during emergency operations. The Two In/Two Out Rule provides for rapid rescue of initial entry personnel operation in the IDLH atmosphere.

II. Scope.

This SOP applies to all operational personnel.

III. Definitions.

IDLH: Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health atmosphere (IDLH), i.e. interior structure fire, confined space, toxic, or oxygen deficient environments, and environments with potential to become IDLH.

RIC: Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) consists of at least two personnel fully equipped with appropriate protective clothing, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), and specialized rescue equipment that might be needed for the specific operation under way.

Standby Team Standby Team is the crew available for rescue prior to assignment of a dedicated RIC, consisting of at least two personnel fully equipped with appropriate protective clothing, SCBA, and specialized rescue equipment that might be needed for the specific operation underway. This team may be engaged in secondary activities as described.

**Two In/
Two Out** Regulation requiring a team of at least two personnel to be organized before entering an IDLH atmosphere. It requires a standby team of at least two personnel outside the IDLH atmosphere to back up the entry team in the event they require rapid rescue.

IV. Compliance Instructions.

The Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has established a set of compliance instructions regarding the number of firefighters required to be present on the fire ground prior to commencing an initial interior attack on a structure fire.

This compliance notice, “Two In/Two Out”, requires a standby team of at least two personnel to back up entry of two personnel before the initial attack into an IDLH atmosphere. These personnel shall be fully equipped with appropriate protective clothing, SCBA, and any specialized rescue equipment that might be needed for the specific operation under way.

Exception: An exception to the “Two In/Two Out” Rule may be taken only for life rescue given the following criteria:

1. Information that an immediate risk to life safety exists within the interior IDLH atmosphere.
2. Realistic expectations of successfully performing a rescue.

V. Departmental Operation.

- A. Entry Team personnel operating in hazardous areas shall operate in teams of two or more and be equipped with SCBA. They shall communicate through visual, audible, physical, or safety guide rope to coordinate their activities. Communication between the two personnel making entry is not allowed by radio; therefore, they must be in close proximity to each other to provide assistance in an emergency.
- B. Standby Team personnel shall communicate with each other through visual or audible means (no radio communication) to coordinate their activities. Only one of the two Standby Team outside the IDLH atmosphere may be engaged in secondary duties, i.e., fire engineer, incident commander, or other qualified personnel, may fill a standby position if their primary focus is to be dressed for and ready to perform a rescue from the IDLH atmosphere. Standby personnel may only be involved in secondary duties if abandoning those duties does not jeopardize the safety or health of any personnel on scene. No one shall be permitted to serve as standby personnel when other activities they are engaged in inhibit the ability to assist in performing a rescue, or are of such importance they cannot be abandoned without placing other firefighters in danger.
- C. In a three-story (or greater) building, a minimum of a four-member initial fire attack team shall ascend to the reported fire. Two team personnel are used as fire attack and the other two stand by as a RIC in the stairwell. In this situation, the company officer could be in the stairwell with another standby personnel while two personnel advance a hose line into the fire floor or the company officer could be part of the two member fire attack, while two others remain in the safe atmosphere. The IC shall provide backup for the initial fire attack team as soon as possible with additional fire attack teams, companies in staging, and/or a RIC, which might normally be assigned at staging.

VI. Rapid Intervention Crews.

- A. **Purpose:** To locate and rescue trapped, injured, or lost firefighters during fire ground or other dangerous operations. It is imperative the IC not assign RIC members for an operation other than as emergency standby personnel. This will also assist in the objective of “two-in-two-out” when working in the hazard zone.
- B. RIC Equipment.
 1. Equipment selection will be based upon a variety of factors, i.e., type of incident, building construction, availability of personnel and equipment, condition of the burning building.
 2. Tools should be grouped according to potential needs of the incident.
 - a. **Level One Tools:** All incidents require at least this level of tools, which always includes: (1) full PPE; air pack donned (not breathing air; conserve air for rescue situations or fire attack relief); (3) hand-light for each member plus victim(s); (4) hand tools (halligan and flat head axe); (5) radio.
 - b. **Level Two Tools:** This level will generally include: (1) chainsaw, (2) rescue rope; (3) two spare SCBA bottles; (4) cutoff saw; (5) RIC bag.

- c. **Level Three Tools:** (1) ladders (think about putting them on the building vs tool staging area); (2) hoselines; (3) hurst tool; (4) air bags.

C. Location.

1. The RIC team shall normally be staged at the point of entry so rapid access may be accomplished in the event of an emergency rescue situation.
2. The RIC may need to be mobile to accomplish additional preplanning activities, i.e., throwing ladders, stretching hoselines, dismantling security bars.
3. The RIC officer may need to be mobile to assess fire conditions, monitor safety of firefighting actions, converse with Rehab Officer, Accountability Officer, and Command.
4. At no time may the RIC officer enter the hazard zone.
5. In the event of multiple points of entry, command shall designate the location for the RIC or consider the assignment of a second RIC.
6. In high-rise buildings, the RIC shall be staged on the floor below the fire.

D. Communications.

1. The RIC team reports directly to the IC, Deputy Fire Chief, or Safety Officer.
2. In the event of a rescue assignment, all communication must be kept to a minimum, focusing on the rescue situation.
3. If available, a second radio frequency should be activated for rescue efforts.
4. The RIC officer must closely monitor all radio traffic to be aware of the progress of the fire and general areas in which companies are operating.

E. Team Responsibilities.

1. Closely monitor fire ground radio traffic to get a head start as a situation deteriorates.
2. Monitor fire conditions; at any minute, the team could be sent to any part of the structure.
3. Become familiar with the layout of the building; learn all entrances and egresses.
4. Be prepared, mentally and physically, when assigned to the RIC team.
5. Do not accept a reassignment until properly relieved by a new RIC team.
6. Make the incident as safe as possible by anticipating rescue scenarios, i.e., unlock doors, position ladders for escape, remove security bars, clean glass out of window panes opened for ventilation.
7. Realize you may be called upon to rescue a fellow firefighter; do not allow yourself to become complacent.

F. Initiation of RICs.

1. RIC crews shall be used on any incident deemed necessary by the IC.
2. All interior fire ground operations must establish RICs.
3. Any hazardous condition may dictate the need for RICs.
4. The IC should never put crews in a dangerous area unless a calculated and significant benefit can be yielded, i.e., viable victims that can be safely rescued. The IC can operate without a RIC team only if initial attack personnel find a known life hazard situation where immediate action could prevent loss of life. The benefit must equal the risk.
5. SFD will not operate a RIC team if the only tactical objective is to save property. The sole purpose of the RIC is for firefighter safety. We rescue the public and the RICs rescue us.

G. Implementation.

1. The Regional Communications Center (RCC) will automatically dispatch an additional fire company on all working incidents as a RIC response. The RCC will notify the additional engine company that it is the RIC for this incident and refer to it as a “RIC Response”. This fire company reports directly to command. The RIC engine will have the radio designator of RIC followed by their company number, i.e., Engine 531 will become RIC 531.
2. Initial RIC.
 - a. The initial RIC will normally consist of the first due engine’s engineer and one member from the second arriving unit, i.e., battalion chief or captain off the second unit. If possible a fire officer shall lead the RIC.
 - b. The engineer shall don full PPE with SCBA (off air) while continuing to operate their apparatus after all initial engineer functions have been completed. The engineer shall assemble Level One RIC equipment.
 - c. The IC or next arriving officer shall don full PPE with SCBA (off air) until sufficient personnel arrive to staff the RIC positions.
 - d. The IC must be able to serve as both the incident commander and a functional member of the RIC. If unable to do both, interior fire operations are postponed until more personnel can arrive to adequately staff the RIC.
3. Extended RIC.
 - a. Extended RIC utilizes an entire company (1st or 2nd due) from the first alarm assignment. Crews are not to be separated.
 - b. The RIC engine (3rd dispatched) will be used for fire operations upon their arrival. The IC must consider rehab for members of this crew when operating under extreme weather conditions.

VII. Accountability.

- A. The “Apparatus PAR System” is a key component for firefighter accountability for personnel assigned to each company. Accurate maintenance of this information on each apparatus is necessary for the District to comply with “accountability” requirements in the NFPA 1500 Standard.
- B. All company officers shall assure that nametags carried on District apparatus are updated whenever staffing changes occur.
- C. It is the responsibility of all SFD personnel to assist in making the overall accountability system as effective and accurate as possible.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/30/2003

FIRE CHIEF: Original signed by Larry Drake **REPLACES:** 03/01/99, #323, Same Title