

FREWSBURG FIRE DISTRICT OPERATIONAL POLICY	Section 7	EMERGENCY OPERATIONS	
	SUBJECT	TWO IN / TWO OUT PROCEDURE	
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I. SCOPE

This policy applies to all Frewsburg Fire District members operating on the scene of any confirmed/ potential structure fire. It is the responsibility of all officers to ensure that is policy is adhered to.

II. PURPOSE

It is the intent of this policy to assure that communications can be maintained between those members working in the IDLH atmosphere and supervisory personnel outside so that their safety can be monitored, and assistance dispatched if necessary.

III. POLICY

Accountability of interior firefighters shall be maintained by assigning suitably equipped standby personnel outside at the nearest safe area to be available to provide a rapid response to any call for assistance. The size and number of rescue teams will be determined by conditions and the number of firefighters at risk.

IV. DEFINITIONS

1. ***Immediately-Dangerous-To-Life-or-Health (IDLH) Atmosphere:*** Atmospheric concentration of any toxic, corrosive, or asphyxiate substance that poses an immediate threat to life or would cause irreversible or delayed adverse health effects or would interfere with an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.
2. ***Rapid Intervention Team (RIT):*** A specifically tasked team (minimum of two members) organized to provide personnel for the rescue of emergency service members (if the need arises) operating at emergency incidents.
3. ***Incipient Fire:*** A fire in the initial or beginning stage that can be controlled or extinguished by portable fire extinguishers. It is the policy of the Frewsburg Fire District to deploy a 1 ¾" hand line any time there is a report of smoke or fire inside a structure. Even though the incipient fire may be controlled by a smaller line or fire extinguisher, a minimum of a 1 ¾" hand line shall be used in most cases.

V. PROCEDURE

1. The first arriving officer shall determine if the incident involves an IDLH atmosphere. At no time shall individuals enter an IDLH atmosphere independently. Teams of at least two SCBA equipped interior firefighters shall be required for entry into such an atmosphere at any time. A team of two interior firefighters may take action to extinguish an incipient fire without the establishment of a Rapid Intervention Team.

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2. If the presence of an IDLH atmosphere has been determined and there are less than four interior firefighters on the scene, those firefighters shall not conduct interior operations within the IDLH atmosphere.
3. Until four SCBA equipped interior firefighters are assembled, operations outside of the IDLH atmosphere shall commence immediately. Such operations may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Establishment of a water supply
 - b. Exterior fire attack
 - c. Utility control
 - d. Ventilation
 - e. Placement of ladders
 - f. Forcible entry
 - g. Exposure protection
 - h. Any other exterior operations deemed appropriate by the IC
4. Once at least four SCBA equipped interior firefighters are on the scene, two may begin working in the IDLH atmosphere as long as two additional SCBA equipped interior firefighters are immediately located outside to serve as the RIT.
5. The Incident Commander shall appoint an Interior Operations Officer who, from the point of entry, shall have the responsibility of maintaining communications with those members working inside of the structure to assure their safety. Such communications may be voice, visual or signal line. (i.e., Radio is acceptable voice communication)
6. Members working inside the structure shall work in a mutually supportive team of at least two. These individuals shall maintain close contact with each other such that if one individual suffers some difficulty the other will be immediately aware and be able to render assistance. The contact between these individuals may not be by radio. The contact must be by voice, visual or touch.
7. The Interior Operations Officer shall have command of an adequate number of suitably equipped personnel to perform rescue duties should the need arise.
 - A. Rescue teams shall consist of a minimum of two (2) Firefighters who shall be located in the nearest safe area so as not to be affected by any likely incident which would precipitate the need for their services.
 - B. Members of the rescue team shall not be assigned duties which cannot be abandoned without jeopardizing the safety of others on the fire ground.

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- C. Pump operators and ladder truck operators may not be utilized as part of the rescue team if the apparatus they are operating are being utilized in the operations being conducted.
- 8. The Accountability Officer shall dispatch the rescue team whenever he / she receives a request for assistance from those inside or whenever he/she is unable to determine their status. The Accountability Officer shall communicate with those inside frequently enough to assure their safety.
- 9. The Incident Commander shall assure that a minimum of four (4) firefighters are assembled prior to implementing operations inside the structure involved unless, in his / her professional judgment, immediate action must be taken to prevent the loss of life or serious injury.
 - A. Rescue operations shall be conducted in teams of at least two and rescue teams set up as additional personnel become available to the Incident Commander.
- 10. As an incident progresses to the point of more than one interior team, an identified and dedicated RIT shall be established and positioned immediately outside the IDLH atmosphere.
 - A. Team members will be dedicated to rescue operations and shall not be assigned other duties (except for incident accountability). A charged hose line shall be dedicated to this team.

VI. EXCEPTIONS TO SOP

- 1. If upon arrival at a fire emergency, members find a fire in its incipient stage, extinguishment of such a fire shall be permitted with less than four interior personnel on the scene. Extinguishment of outside fires such as dumpsters, brush or vehicles shall be permitted with less than four interior firefighters on the scene.
- 2. If upon arrival at the scene, members find an imminent life-threatening situation where immediate action may prevent loss of life or serious injury, such action shall be permitted with less than four interior firefighters on the scene.
 - A. The rescue may be attempted when the probability of a rescue is made in accordance with normal size-up indicators and fire ground evaluation factors (Example: a reliable report of persons inside or obvious signs of persons inside).
- 1. The IC shall evaluate the situation, considering the occupancy, time of day, reports from persons on the scene, signs that persons may be inside the structure, etc.
 - A. Entry may be considered if signs indicate a probable victim rescue.

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- B. In the absence of clear signs or a report from a responsible person on the scene that people are in the structure, it is to be assumed that no life hazard exists, and an interior attack shall not be initiated until the minimum of four interior firefighters arrive on the scene.
2. In all cases, a minimum of two interior firefighters shall form the entry team.
3. If it is determined that the situation warrants immediate intervention with less than four interior firefighters on the scene, the IC shall notify County Dispatch of the intent to enter the IDLH atmosphere prior to the availability of a RIT. Dispatch shall then notify all responding companies of this action (Example: "Dispatch to all responding units, Frewsburg E-342 is making an interior rescue with a two-person crew").