

SCOPE: This procedure applies to all first arriving units operating in an IDLH environment, or potential IDLH environment.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this procedure is to define the considerations for meeting the 2 In / 2 Out requirement based on OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4). This procedure is meant to define the OSHA standard while also ensuring the tactical needs of the incident are being achieved. The 2 In / 2 Out team will be known as the Initial Rapid Intervention Team (IRIT). IRIT is defined as a temporary two-person tactical reserve assigned at the outset of an incident to allow teams to enter an IDLH, or potential IDLH atmosphere, for incidents that do not allow for the 2 in / 2 Out exception.

OBJECTIVE

1. OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4)

- 1.1. OSHA states that “once firefighters begin the interior attack on an interior structural fire, the atmosphere is assumed to be IDLH and paragraph 29 CFR 1910.134(g) (4) [two-in/two-out] applies.”
- 1.2. The objective of 2 in / 2 out is to have fully equipped firefighters in position during the initial fire attack to react in the event of a Mayday situation during incidents that do not allow for the 2 in / 2 Out exception.
- 1.3. The 2 in / 2 out procedure will be established anytime firefighters are on air inside a structure and no other units have arrived on scene.

2. Standard Exceptions to the 2 in / 2 out

- 2.1. According to OSHA, there are two exceptions to the standard that allow for the first arriving unit to bypass 2 In / 2 Out. The **two exceptions** consist of:
 - 2.1.1. When there is a reported or suspected life hazard where immediate action could prevent the loss of life.
 - 2.1.2. A fire in the incipient stage of fire growth. OSHA further defines an incipient stage fire in 29 CFR 1910.155(c)(26) as a “fire which is in the initial or beginning stage and which can be controlled or extinguished by portable fire extinguishers, Class II standpipe or small hose systems without the need for protective clothing or breathing apparatus.”
- 2.2. When the standard is met, it is critical that the accountability for the 2 in / 2 Out team members is managed by the Incident Commander whether they are in the Forward or Fixed Command modes. It is the requirement that the Incident Commander (initial arriving Company Officer) account for the individual members of IRIT. It is also the requirement for the individual IRIT members to make the Incident Commander aware of their position and function for accountability.

PROCEDURES

3. The 2 in / 2 out standard needs to be addressed by the initial arriving company during their Initial Radio Report (IRR).
4. One primary member of the 2 in / 2 out pair must be solely dedicated to tracking interior personnel. Their function is to react in a safe and effective manner based on their capabilities and ability to communicate in the event of a Mayday by firefighters making the initial fire attack. This position requires appropriate PPE, a radio with the appropriate hazard zone capabilities and to work within

the incident management system. The second member of the 2 in / 2 Out team may be engaged in other activities within the hazard zone including fulfilling the role of the Engineer and operating the pumper.

5. If members of IRIT are deployed to assist with a Mayday situation, it is imperative that they communicate their actions with Command. If the forward IC is the firefighter experiencing a Mayday, the IRIT members must communicate with the inbound Chief Officer. IRIT members must maintain a level of accountability to Command even when acting in a Mayday situation.
6. If the first arriving company cannot take 2 In / 2 Out exception and cannot meet the 2 In / 2 Out standard due to a lack of staffing (PAR 2 or PAR 3), then the first arriving company will have to remain **outside the IDLH** until the second arriving fire company is positioned on scene or in Level 1 staging.
 - 6.1. Tasks that can be performed while awaiting the arrival of the 2nd due unit consist of but are not limited to forcible entry, 360's, securing utilities, exterior water application, stretching hose, securing a water supply, controlling flow paths, etc.