

# *Augusta County Emergency Services Officers Association*

*Augusta County Government Center  
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## *Fire-EMS Standard Operating Guideline*

<b>Section:</b>	<b>4 Fire Operational Information</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Two In – Two Out</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>August, 2008 (Revised September 2013)</b>

### **TWO IN – TWO OUT**

The following information outlines the guidelines, processes, and expected actions that should occur regarding the referenced items. It is realized that this document can not address every possible situation or scenario. Therefore, officers, members, and employees shall follow the actions listed in this document; however, should the need to deviate from the standard expected action be required based on unusual circumstances or safety or personnel, the actions shall be documented and justified on the incident report.

**PURPOSE:** To establish standard guidelines and procedures that will serve to provide a safe fire ground for all emergency personnel and to reduce the risk of injury or death as a result of department operations or policies. This policy will serve to comply with the National Fire Protection Association 1500 standard and the Virginia Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration for interior structural fire attack.

### **GUIDELINE:**

1. The Augusta County Incident Command System will be utilized on all fire related responses. The first arriving company officer shall assume the initial command and control of incidents until command is assumed by another company or chief officer.
2. At least four (4) trained members will be assembled before initiating interior fire fighting operations at working structure fires with IDLH atmospheres (except as noted in the exception section). Two (2) members shall be stationed outside the IDLH atmosphere to serve as backup for the two entry fire fighters. At any time during an incident, the Incident Commander may request additional units/resources to maintain a safe emergency scene operation or to staff rapid intervention teams.
3. Incident commanders will be responsible for performing a scene risk assessment prior to implementing tactics for fire attack. Tactical decisions will be made based on their evaluation of the event, the needs compared to the resources, and the expected incident outcome. On scene operations shall be limited to those actions that can be safely

performed by the personnel on the scene. The incident commander shall base decisions and actions on their experience, professional judgment and training.

## **PROCEDURE**

1. If a company arrives on the scene of a “working structural fire with IDLH atmosphere unless there is the probability of a victim resource as outlined in Section IV – Exceptions, two people can begin initial fire attack with two people outside the IDLH atmosphere to serve as the initial rapid intervention team. The four members assembled prior to initial fire fighting operations can include any combination of members arriving on the incident scene. One of the members outside can be assigned additional duties. The pump operator can be counted as one of the four as long as abandonment of the apparatus will not adversely affect fire fighter rescue efforts and should only be done as a last resort. A reliable water supply adequate to contain the incident shall be established prior to utilizing the pump operator as a part of the initial rapid intervention team.
2. Until four fire fighters are assembled, exterior operations shall commence immediately in accordance with stand practices for fire ground operations and can include, but not be limited to: establish water supply, deploy fire attack and exposure protection hose lines, utility control, ventilation, placement of ladders, forcible entry, exposure protections, and other exterior operations as deemed appropriate by the incident commander.
3. Members operating in a hazardous (IDLH) atmosphere shall be in communications with each other through visual, audible, physical, or safety rope. Team members must be in a close proximity to each other to provide assistance in case of an emergency.

## **EXCEPTIONS**

1. If upon arrival at the scene, members find an imminent life-threatening situation or probable life threatening situation where immediate action may prevent the loss of life or serious injury, such action shall be permitted with less than four persons on the scene when the probability of a rescue is made in accordance with normal size-up indicators and fire ground evaluation factor. (Example, report of persons inside, sign of persons inside, etc.)
  - a. Residential Occupancies – In the absence of a report from a responsible person on the scene that everyone is out of the residence, it is to be assumed that a life hazard exists until the primary search has been completed.
  - b. Business or Commercial (Non-Residential) Occupancies – The company officer shall evaluate the situation, considering the occupancy, time of day, day of the week, reports from persons on the scene, signs that persons may be inside the structure, etc. Entry may be considered if signs indicate a probable victim rescue.
  - c. Vacant or Abandoned Occupancies – 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 interior attack shall not be initiated until the minimum four (4) persons arrive on the scene.
2. If members are going to initiate actions that would involve entering a structure because of a probable or eminent life-threatening situation where immediate action may prevent the loss of life or serious injury, and personnel are not on the scene to establish an initial rapid intervention team, the members should carefully evaluate the level of risk that they would be exposed to by taking such actions. In all cases, a minimum of two (2) people shall form the entry team.

3. If it is determined that the situation warrants immediate intervention and four people are not on the scene, the incident commander shall notify the Emergency Communications Center and the responding companies, of the intent to enter the building prior to the availability of a rapid intervention team. Such action is intended to apply only to those rare and extraordinary circumstances when, in the incident commander's professional judgement, the specific instance require immediate action to prevent the loss of life or serious injury and four persons have not yet arrived on the fire ground.

### **GUIDELINE EXCEPTION REPORT**

Should this guideline be deviated from by the authority of the incident commander on the scene, the actions taken shall be documented on the fire incident report and forwarded to the Augusta County Fire Rescue Chief. The narrative of this report shall be by the incident commander and outline the reasons, rationale, justification, and end result of the deviation from the normal accepted guideline. All information in the report shall be of enough depth so as to provide a comprehensive understanding of the actions taken.