



Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS

Standard Operating Procedure

DOCUMENT DETAILS

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Subject: RIC & 2 In – 2 Out Functions	Section: Fire/Rescue Operations
Authorized: Deputy Chief Paul Supko	Revision Date: N/A

Applicability: ☒ Volunteer ☒ Career

I. PURPOSE

To establish safe operating procedures for high-risk emergency operations, including structural firefighting and technical rescue incidents, by ensuring a minimum standard of personnel safety through the practice of Two-In & Two-Out & Rapid Intervention Crews.

This SOP applies to all personnel involved in operations within Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) environments, including:

- A. Interior structural firefighting
- B. Technical rescue (rope, confined space, trench, collapse)
- C. Hazardous materials operations

II. DEFINITIONS

Emergency Activation Button (EB): Orange button located on the portable radio and remote speaker mic that activates the emergency alert mode which transmits an emergency signal and identify the radio designation.

HazMat Operations: Entry into or mitigation of hazardous materials environments above the operational level.

IDLH Atmosphere: Environment immediately dangerous to life or health.

Mayday: Term used to report situations where a firefighter(s) is in distress or requires assistance in an IDLH atmosphere.

Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC): Resource assigned on an emergency event to achieve the rapid intervention capability. Four personnel are recommended for this assignment; the minimum, however, is three personnel.

RID Task Force: A complement of resources used to enhance RIC during a large or complex incident, and/or the activation of a RIC company. The complement includes:

- 1 - Engine
- 1 - Special service
- 1 - Medic unit

Technical Rescue: Operations involving unusual hazards and specialized equipment (Ex., rope, confined space, trench, collapse).

III. POLICY

All IDLH operations must follow the "Two-In, Two-Out" rule: no fewer than four personnel are required before entry into IDLH conditions—two operating inside and two outside, prepared to initiate rescue.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. General Rule for All IDLH Environments

1. A **minimum of four personnel** is required before entry into IDLH conditions:
 - a. **Two-In:** Personnel working inside the hazard zone.
 - b. **Two-Out:** Personnel outside, properly equipped, standing by for rescue or assistance.
2. The Incident Commander (when not in a tactical role) and FADO will not be included as part of the 2 out.

B. Applies to the Following Incident Types:

1. **Structural Firefighting:** Beyond incipient stage.
3. **Rope Rescue:** Elevated work or entry where fall hazard exists.
4. **Confined Space Entry:** Permit-required environments with IDLH potential.
5. **Trench Rescue:** Active shoring or entry into unprotected trenches.
6. **Collapse Rescue:** Entry into unstable structures or voids.
7. **Hazardous Materials:** Operations requiring PPE and SCBA.

C. Exceptions to the 2-In/2-Out Requirement

1. **Imminent Life-Saving Rescue:** If immediate action is required to save a life and delay would increase risk to the victim.
2. **Incipient Fires or Non-IDLH Conditions:** When hazards do not meet the IDLH threshold.

D. Responsibilities

1. **Incident Commander:** Enforce 2-in/2-out policy, authorize exceptions as needed.
2. **Entry Teams:** Work in pairs, maintain communication, use accountability systems.
3. **RIC Teams:** Be rescue-ready with PPE, tools, and rapid deployment plan.

E. RIC Responsibilities

1. **Initial Rapid Intervention Crew -** The initial RIC is a single resource (recommended to be composed of four personnel but with a minimum of three personnel), assigned from the resources on the initial alarm on an emergency incident to achieve the rapid intervention capability. The unit that should be used to create the initial RIC is the fourth due Engine on the initial dispatch.
 - a. Dispatch to an incident that will potentially require personnel to operate within an IDLH will trigger an initial RIC.

2. Duties of the Initial RIC

- a. While responding, the assigned RIC officer and the entire crew should monitor all radio traffic. Critical information to remain aware of includes but is not limited to:
 - i. Building size
 - ii. Occupancy
 - iii. Construction type
 - iv. Conditions evident
 - v. Each company's incident action plan (IAP), including an area of operations.
 - vi. Each company's staffing operating in IDLH
- b. Position apparatus out of the way as not to block access for other units.
- c. Proceed to the closest truck or rescue squad and retrieve the RIC equipment. The RIC should have at a minimum:
 - i. RIC Bag – Carroll County and Mutual aid, if available
 - ii. Hand Tools (irons)
 - iii. Power saws
 - iv. Hand lights
 - v. Thermal imaging camera (TIC)
 - vi. Stokes basket

- d. The RIC will perform a 360 and provide an update report to command. This does not need to be a rebroadcast of all the information provided in the original 360 radio report but instead should focus on any conditions or observations that have changed from the original report.
- e. If not assigned by the IC, the RIC officer shall select a location for RIC outside any anticipated collapse zone. The location should provide easy and timely access to the potential problem areas of the incident.
- f. The RIC must maintain situational awareness of the incident action plan and perform tasks to improve firefighter safety on the incident. This includes routine monitoring of the radio and assisting with the accountability of crews regarding their assigned location within the structure, as well as the following:
 - i. Improve ladder placement or throw additional ladders as needed
 - ii. Force egress points for rapid firefighter escape
 - iii. Remove windows/window bars and security gates as applicable. Ensure coordination with the IC to make sure there are no unintended consequences to coordinated ventilation.
 - iv. Remove or control fire ground hazards
 - v. Maintain current rescue plans as fire ground tactics change
 - vi. Continuously monitor fire ground activity, function, location, fire, and smoke conditions
 - vii. Control any utilities on the exterior of the building
- g. Enhanced RIC (Rapid Intervention Dispatch) – Enhances the initial RIC with an adequate number of personnel:
 - i. The first arriving officer shall request a RID as soon as there is any visible indication (smoke/fire) of a working fire.
 - ii. If the first arriving officer fails to request the RID, the talk group operator will prompt the first due command officer to see if they would like the RID started.
 - iii. In addition, the ECC supervisor is empowered to dispatch a RID when critical factors indicate the potential for a working incident.
- h. If an exception to the policy is made, document the following in the incident report:
 - i. Type of incident
 - ii. Reason for exception
 - iii. Risk-benefit justification
 - iv. Outcome

IV. RECISION

This Standard Operating Procedure rescinds all directives regarding RIC & 2 In – 2 Out Functions or similar content previously issued for personnel of the Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS.

V. RELATED STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES / DOCUMENTS

- A. Policy 4.1.1 Incident Management System
- B. Policy 4.1.3 Radio Reports
- C. Policy 4.1.5 MAYDAY Procedures
- D. 29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4) – OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard
- E. NFPA 1500 – Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program
- F. NFPA 1670 – Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue
- G. NFPA 472/1072 – Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction

VI. ATTACHMENTS

None