



# WARE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Standard Operating Guideline

Effective Date: <b>January 2008</b>	SOG Category & Identification Number: <b>Operational OPS-003</b>	Revision:
SOG Title: <b>Two-In/ Two-Out First-Arriving Unit</b>		
Approved by:	Re-evaluation Date: <b>January 2009</b>	Number of Pages: 3

### Purpose:

This guideline is intended to increase the overall level of safety for all members of the Ware Fire Department when operating at an emergency scene. Further, this guideline is intended to:

- To provide direction for operations in Immediate Danger to Life and Health (IDLH) or potential IDLH atmospheres.
- To assure compliance with the national standard, NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*, and other pertinent standards when operating in and around hazardous environments.
- To define the response, tasks and organization of an initial response within IDLH, the establishment of "buddy systems" and an initial, or "2 in/ 2 out" RIT.

### Definitions:

**Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)** is a unit of a minimum of two (2) (non-probationary) firefighters in full personal protective equipment, (including SCBA), with radio communication abilities, ready for immediate service.

**IDLH:** IDLH is an atmospheric concentration of any toxic, corrosive or asphyxiate substance that:

1. Poses an immediate threat to life
2. Would cause irreversible or delayed adverse health effects
3. Would interfere with an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere

Atmospheres with a concentration of oxygen less than or potentially less than healthy atmosphere will be considered as IDLH. An atmosphere will be considered IDLH until proven otherwise.

**"Buddy System":** "Buddy" teams are two or more personnel who work together to perform operations within an IDLH environment or area.

**Who may be assigned to a “2-in or 2-out” “buddy team” or initial RIT:**

Any Officer, or experienced (non-probationary) firefighter in the Ware Fire Department or any Officer or firefighter in a mutual aid department may be designated to these roles and functions.

**Scope:**

**“2-in/2-out” Team:**

The initial “2-in/2-out” requires a *minimum two-person entry team* “in” the hazardous area and the *required two-person stand-by team* positioned “outside” the hazardous area. It is the policy of the Ware Fire Department that the “buddy system” be used whenever an entry into any hazardous area is made. *Personnel will not enter an IDLH area alone.*

**Enforcement:**

- Prior to a “buddy team” entering an IDLH area, an initial RIT must be assembled outside the hazardous area.
- *The minimum number of personnel assembled on scene prior to entry into the IDLH area when hose lines must be deployed is 5:*
  - 2-entry team members
  - 2-initial RIT members
  - 1 pump operator
- *The minimum number of personnel assembled on scene prior to entry into the IDLH area when NO hose lines are deployed is 4:*
  - 2-entry team members
  - 2-initial RIT members
- *The only exception of entry of a BUDDY CREW (never individuals operating alone) into an IDLH area without an established RIT is for the crew to perform an immediate rescue of suspected occupants.*
- The initial RIT (SEE SOG # OPS-004)

**Duties and Responsibilities of the first arriving unit:**

The first-arriving unit will perform exterior operations while waiting for the assembly of adequate personnel for entry. Such operations may include, but are not limited to:

- Size-up the incident and give an appropriate brief initial report.
- Establish command
- Request additional resources
- Exterior rescue and fire attack
- Exterior utilities control
- Exposure protection
- Medical assistance for victims
- Isolation and evacuation
- Establishing a water supply
- Denying access to the hazardous area

**Duties and Responsibilities of an Entry Team:**

It is the policy of the Ware Fire Department that the “buddy system” be used whenever an entry into any hazardous area is made. *Personnel will not enter an IDLH area alone.*

- A team leader will be designated for each “buddy team”.
- The team leader will be equipped with a portable radio and will be designated by a team function or designation by the IC.
- The team leader will assure ongoing updates of progress, operations and findings to IC as appropriate
- The team leader will notify IC in the event of an emergency.
- While operating in an IDLH area, team members must remain in *direct visual, voice or tethered contact* with one another *at all times*.
- *At no time will team members be separated from one another.*
- Each team member is required to:
  - Provide assistance to fellow team members
  - Warn of hazards encountered
  - Routinely check on the welfare of fellow team members
  - Routinely advise IC of conditions. (Team leader)
  - Provide PAR (personnel accountability reports) to IC. (Team leader)

**Prior to a “buddy team” entering an IDLH area, an initial RIT must be assembled outside the hazardous area (see exceptions and definitions above.)**