

# SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

<b>SOG #:</b>	6.307	<b>Effective Date:</b>	6/12/2015
<b>Title:</b>	Safe Fire Ground Operations & 2 In / 2 Out	<b># of pages:</b>	5
<b>Category:</b>	Safety	<b>Classification:</b>	Red

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide a standard guideline that will serve to provide a safe fire ground environment for all employees. To assist in reducing the risk of unforeseen injury or death as a result of emergency operations and serve as an intent to comply with the respiratory guidelines of NFPA 1500, Federal OSHA and Maine Department of Labor for operation within potential IDLH atmosphere.
2. **POLICY:** All personnel of or operating under the command of the South Portland Fire Department shall be responsible for compliance with this guideline.
3. **PROCEDURES:**

### **Definitions:**

#### **Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) Atmosphere**

For this purpose, any area inside a structure or any area outside a structure that requires the use of self contained breathing apparatus for the protection from smoke products of combustion, toxic vapors, potentially harmful particulate matter, or an oxygen deficient atmosphere.

#### **IDLH Level Structure Fire (Working Fire)**

Any fire that requires the advancement of a 1.75 inch or larger attack line and that also requires the use of self contained breathing apparatus.

#### **Rescue Team Back Up Team**

A designated two (2) member rescue team (back up team) assigned to be present outside the IDLH atmosphere during the Initial Stage of Operation. This two (2) person team shall have full turn out gear on including SCBA's. All other equipment, which may be necessary, will be readily available. These people shall remain together and one shall serve as the accountability officer for persons entering and/or leaving the atmosphere. To insure the safety of personnel of the South Portland Fire Department, at no time shall the Incident Commander be considered as part of this team. It will further be the intent not to utilize the pump operator for this position with the exception of extenuating circumstances as designed by the incident commander.

#### **Rapid Intervention Team**

A specifically designated rescue team (minimum of two persons, maximum determined by incident) with full protective clothing, SCBA, hand tools and a charged hose line at the scene of an emergency operation beyond the initial stage. This team is designated to provide

personnel for the rescue of fire department members operating at the incident should the need arise.

### **Initial Stage**

The period of an incident where the tasks are being undertaken by the first two (2) arriving companies with only one teams assigned to work or operate in the IDLH atmosphere.

### **Buddy System**

Operating in teams of two or more firefighters. Under this system, no single fire fighter shall be assigned a task to perform alone in an IDLH atmosphere.

### **Guideline for all IDLH Structure Fires and IDLH Atmosphere Operations**

1. At least four (4) members, full time or call firefighters, ( excluding the Incident Commander and Pump Operator) shall be assembled before initiating interior firefighting operations at structure fires or operations involving IDLH atmospheres. The Incident Commander reserves the right to utilize the pump operator as part of the Rescue Team and to request any and all additional resources to maintain a safe emergency scene operation.
2. During the initial stages, the Incident Commander shall limit actions taken to those that can be safely conducted by the personnel on scene. He or she shall base their decisions and actions on their discretionary judgement and training.
3. Personal Alert Safety Devices shall be activated and operational prior to entering any IDLH atmosphere.
4. Whenever there is more than one (1) team operating or assigned in an IDLH atmosphere, the incident shall no longer be considered in the “initial stage” and at least one (1) Rapid Intervention Team shall be in place.
5. The “Buddy System” shall be utilized for all IDLH atmospheres. Personnel operating in the IDLH atmosphere shall work in teams of two or more. At no time shall any member operate as a single person team. All members shall utilize full protective clothing and self contained breathing apparatus in all IDLH, (or potential) including vehicles and outside container fires, until the atmosphere is deemed no longer IDLH by the Incident Commander.
6. The department’s accountability system shall be utilized at all incidents involving an IDLH atmosphere.
7. The Incident Commander shall be responsible for appointing a scene safety officer once proceeding into the operation stage or fulfilling that duty on all IDLH atmosphere operations. The designated Safety Officer shall carry out those duties as established by previous department guidelines. A dedicated scene Safety Officer shall be assigned at all multiple alarm incidents.
8. All personnel shall immediately exit the IDLH atmosphere when directed to do so by the incident commander, safety officer, or by the standard department evacuation signal.

### **Procedure for Emergency Scene Operations**

1. If companies arrive on the scene of a “working structure fire” with less than four (4) persons, (excluding the incident commander and first in pump operator), on the scene, the companies must wait until four (4) persons are assembled prior to initiating an interior (offensive) attack or entry into the IDLH atmosphere. These four persons may be any combinations of full time or call personnel.
2. Prior to assembling the four persons (excluding the Incident Commander and first in Pump Operator), exterior (defensive) operations shall commence immediately in accordance with the Standard Fireground Operating Guidelines of the South Portland Fire Department. These may include, but are not limited to; establishment of a water supply, hose line advancement outside the IDLH atmosphere, size up, exterior (defensive) firefighting, exposure protection, utility control, ventilation, ladder placement, forcible entry, or any other exterior operation as designated by the incident commander, as long as these operations don’t expose personnel to the IDLH atmosphere.
3. Members operating in IDLH atmosphere shall do so utilizing the “Buddy system” and shall remain in constant contact with each members of the team. This may be by visual, direct voice, safety rope, or physical contact. Team members shall remain in close proximity to each other to provide assistance in case of an emergency radio contact within teams is not an acceptable means of communications, however; it is permissible for teams to communicate with the Incident Commander through the use of portable radios.
4. During the initial stages of an operation, at least one (1) team of two persons shall be designated as a rescue team. This team shall be in full protective clothing with SCBA’s donned. They shall stay in ready contact with the incident commander in order to be readily deployable if the need arises.
5. As the incident progresses to an “All Hands” Operation in which more than one interior team has been deployed; an identified Rapid Intervention Team shall be established and positioned immediately outside the IDLH atmosphere. This team shall be fully outfitted with turnout clothing, SCBA’s hand tools and a 1.75 inch handline. This team shall replace the rescue (backup) team established previously. This team shall be designated to perform firefighter rescue and shall not be assigned other duties unless a replacement team member is assigned.
6. If the incident is in a mid or high rise structure, large are facility or other with possible multiple IDLH atmospheres, the Incident Commander shall establish the necessary number of Rapid Intervention Teams, so firefighter rescue can be accomplished without a deployment delay. A team should be considered for each remote access point at large facilities and the floor below the fire in mid and high rise operations. The Incident Commander will be responsible for determining the number of teams needed, based on the specifics of the operation.
7. If any Rescue Team or Rapid Intervention Team is required to enter the IDLH atmosphere to rescue a firefighter, dispatch shall be notified prior to entry. Dispatch shall at that point transmit a toned announcement to all units working and or responding to the incident that a firefighter rescue is in progress.
8. Upon activation that a firefighter rescue is in progress, dispatch will automatically indicate a “Signal 1000” and all non-essential radio traffic shall cease immediately. The Incident Commander shall then assign all necessary personnel and equipment to assist in the rescue as required. Those personnel not assigned an active function shall

immediately report back to their apparatus at which time the officer or person in charge of the company shall take an immediate personnel accountability report and forward it to command by messenger, **not radio**.

9. All personnel operating in or potentially in any IDLH atmosphere (interior or exterior) shall wear full protective clothing and utilize self contained breathing apparatus.
10. In the event that the Incident Commander orders the evacuation of a structure or area, it shall be complied with. Upon exiting the structure or area, company officers shall take an immediate accountability report of their personnel and forward it to command in person. At that time all companies shall await re-deployment.

### **Exceptions for Imminent Life Hazards**

1. If upon arrival the Incident Commander finds an imminent or potentially imminent life threatening situation where the immediate action is required to prevent the loss of life or serious injury, such action shall be permitted to commence with less than four (4) persons on the scene, when the probability of a rescue is made in accordance with normal size-up indicators. An imminent life-threatening situation is defined as one in which there are direct reports of persons inside, or signs of persons inside in accordance with normal size-up indicators.
2. If actions are initiated that involve entering a structure with less than four (4) persons on scene due to an imminent life threatening situation to rescue trapped occupants, dispatch shall be immediately notified of said action. Dispatch shall re-transmit said action to all responding units that the first in company (ies) have deployed to a rescue mode. The next arriving company shall insure the initiation of a rescue team unless otherwise directed by command.
3. In the event that a decision is made to enter a hazardous IDLH atmosphere prior to assembling four (4) persons on scene, the person making the decision shall forward a written report of his or her actions to the Chief of Department. Said report shall fully describe the condition (s) that warranted such action and shall be forwarded to the Chief of Department within twenty –four (24) hours of said incident.

#### 4. REFERENCES:

- None

By Order Of:

*Kevin W Guimond*

Kevin W. Guimond  
Fire Chief

**SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT  
684 BROADWAY  
SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE 04106**

**STAFFING REPORT**

**This report must be completed for any structure fire response with the use of SCBA in an IDLH atmosphere when the first due unit (s) operate with less than four people on the scene.**

**Run Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reason for Response with limited Staffing (Check the item):**

\_\_\_ Inspection                      \_\_\_ Training                      \_\_\_ Waterfront                      \_\_\_ Maintenance

\_\_\_ Rescue Call                      \_\_\_ Errands FD                      \_\_\_ O.T. Staff                      \_\_\_ Public Educ.

\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**If this call was a response to a still, desk box or street box for a structure with a smoke condition. The first arriving officer/person in charge must complete the following:**

Conditions Upon Arrival:

\_\_\_ Smoke Showing                      \_\_\_ Working Fire

Initial Actions                      Initial Number of People on Scene \_\_\_

\_\_\_ Search & Rescue (If less than 4 people on the scene, why was search initiated?)

\_\_\_ Offensive Operations (To include support of Rescue Operations)

\_\_\_ Defensive Operations Changed to Offensive upon Arrival of Additional Personnel

\_\_\_ Defensive Only

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Officer/Person In Charge

\*Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Duty Chief

\*Submit this form for the Duty Chief's review. Attached the signed form to your officer's report

Form Date 9/27/00