



# ABINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

OG – 400-107

## Two in/Two Out

### 1.0 PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the implementation of OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134, Two In/Two Out Rule and its application during emergency operations. The Two In/Two Out Rule provides for rapid rescue of initial entry personnel operation in an Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health atmosphere (IDLH), An IDLH atmosphere is a interior structure fire, confined space, toxic, or oxygen deficient environment, and/or environments with the potential to become IDLH.

This guideline applies to all Abington Township Fire Companies.

### Background Information

The Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has established a set of compliance instructions regarding the number of firefighters required to be present on the fire ground prior to commencing an initial interior attack on a structure fire.

This compliance notice, “Two In/Two Out”, requires a standby team of at least two personnel to back up entry of two personnel before the initial attack into an IDLH atmosphere. These personnel shall be fully equipped with appropriate protective clothing, SCBA, and any specialized rescue equipment that might be needed for the specific operation under way.

**Exception:** An exception to the “Two In/Two Out” Rule may be taken only for life rescue given the following criteria:

1. Information that an immediate risk to life safety exists within the interior IDLH atmosphere.
2. Realistic expectations of successfully performing a rescue.

### 2.0 RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility to ensure that the above actions are taken in an appropriate manner are defined as indicated below:

- 2.1 Company Members (CM)
- 2.2 Company Officers (CO)

### 3.0 PROCEDURE

- 3.1 Entry Team personnel operating in hazardous areas shall operate in teams of two or more and be equipped with SCBA.
- 3.2 Personnel entering an IDLH atmosphere must maintain visual, audible, or physical contact to coordinate their activities. Communication between the two personnel making entry by radio is permitted but is not to be used instead of those methods listed above. Therefore, they must be in close proximity to each other to provide assistance in an emergency.

- 3.3** A Standby Team consisting of at least two personnel fully equipped with appropriate protective clothing, SCBA, and specialized rescue equipment that might be needed for the specific operation underway must be ready to go into service as needed
- 3.4** Only one of the two Standby Team outside the IDLH atmosphere may be engaged in secondary duties, i.e., fire engineer, incident commander, or other qualified personnel, may fill a standby position if their primary focus is to be dressed for and ready to perform a rescue from the IDLH atmosphere.
  - 3.4.1** Standby personnel may only be involved in secondary duties if abandoning those duties does not jeopardize the safety or health of any personnel on scene.
  - 3.4.2** No one shall be permitted to serve as standby personnel when other activities they are engaged in inhibit the ability to assist in performing a rescue, or are of such importance they cannot be abandoned without placing other firefighters in danger
- 3.5** Standby Team personnel shall communicate with each other through visual or audible means (no radio communication) to coordinate their activities.

#### **4.0 RECORDS**

- 4.1 Master Document Listing
- 4.2 Training Records
- 4.3 OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134