

# Egg Harbor Fire Department and First Responders Standard Operating Guidelines

**SUBJECT: TWO IN/TWO OUT PROCEDURES**

**SOG 203**

**PURPOSE:** To establish as policy to demonstrate compliance with the Federal OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard.

**SCOPE:** This policy shall apply to all members of the Egg Harbor Fire Department.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** It shall be the responsibility of each member of the fire department to follow this S.O.G. for their safety.

## **DEFINITIONS:**

**OSHA:** Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**IDLH: *Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health;*** Atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

**SCBA: *Self-contained Breathing Apparatus*** means an atmosphere-supplying respirator for which the breathing air source is designed to be carried by the user.

***Interior Structural Firefighting:*** The physical activity of fire suppression, rescue or both inside of buildings or enclosed structures which are involved in a fire situation beyond the incipient stage.

***Incipient Stage Fire:*** A fire which is in the initial or beginning stage and which can be controlled or extinguished by portable fire extinguishers without the need of protective clothing or SCBA.

1. The Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration recently issued a revised standard regarding respiratory protection. Among other changes, the regulation now requires that interior structural firefighting procedures provide for at least two firefighters inside the structure. Two firefighters inside the structure must have direct visual contact between each other and direct, voice or radio contact with firefighters outside the structure. This section has been dubbed the firefighter's "two in/two out" regulation.

2. When are two in / two out procedures required?

OSHA states that “once firefighters begin the interior attack on an interior structure fire, the atmosphere is assumed to be IDLH and the two in/two out applies. Any structural fire beyond the incipient stage is considered to be an IDLH atmosphere by OSHA.

3. All firefighters engaged in interior structural firefighting must wear SCBA and work in teams of two or more.

Firefighters must operate in a buddy system and maintain voice contact with one another at all times.

4. At least one team of two or more properly equipped and trained firefighters be present outside the structure before any teams of firefighters enter the structure.

5. Exceptions: If initial attack personnel find a known life-hazard situation where immediate action could prevent the loss of life, deviation from the two in/two out standard may be permitted. **The exception is for known life rescue only, not for standard search and rescue activities.**