

Volusia County Fire Services Safety Gram



Barry G. Ellis
Battalion 20A/Safety 10

“Two-In-Two-Out” 103.004 SOG

January 1, 2007

At 10:00 hrs, Engine 20 with a crew of three has been dispatched to a report of a structure fire in a residential area. Engine 20's lieutenant receives information from the dispatch center regarding a report of heavy smoke coming from the eaves of the structure via phone call from a neighbor.

Upon arrival Engine 20's lieutenant reports what appear to be flames dancing out of the “B” side two windows, and heavy smoke coming from the eaves of the structure. The lieutenant is advised by a neighbor the family living in this home was on vacation. The lieutenant sees no cars in the driveway and no toys in the yard.

The lieutenant must remember several factors within the Two-In-Two-Out” Standard Operating Guideline 103.004.

1. Structure meets Immediate Danger to Life and Health (IDLH) Atmosphere.
2. Fires progressed beyond the incipient stage.
3. Confirms of no life hazards.
4. Report to dispatch of a working structure fire

To enter this structure Engine 20's lieutenant must have at least four firefighters assembled before initiating an interior attack of a working structure fire. The engine company officer must wait for additional firefighters to meet the “Two-In Two-Out” policy of four. Once four firefighters are assembled on scene, the lieutenant will have firefighters work in teams of two in full personal protective equipment (PPE). At no time, should a firefighter enter the hazard zone alone.

The lieutenant must place one of the two outside firefighters as a stand-by person at the entry point where the two inside firefighters have entered. One of the stand-by firefighters must be in constant awareness and maintain communication with the interior team. The second firefighter (stand-by person) can complete the task assigned.

If the stand-by firefighters are required to enter the structure to rescue a team member(s), they must notify dispatch and incoming units. Dispatch will then notify the responding battalion officer.

Two firefighters operating in an IDLH atmosphere must be in sight, voice, or touch of each other. A safety rope or tether may also be used. Radio/electronic communication equipment should always be used. It shall not be considered as a substitute for any one of the previously mentioned means of communication/contact because the electronic device may fail to operate properly.

While waiting for more resources and manpower, Engine 20's lieutenant can have his firefighters establish a water supply, shut down utilities, place ground ladders where needed, and position attack lines and exposure lines.

Engine 20's lieutenant has many factors to consider during fire ground operation. One must review SOG 103.004 “Two-In Two-Out” in its entirety.

Dispersion level chart

Dispersion Range 0-40 is stable air, low fire intensity, less long range spotting.

Dispersion Range 41-70 is moderate unstable air, increased fire intensity and long range spotting.

Dispersion Range 70+ is unstable air, high amount of upper lifting, intense fire activity, potential for long range spotting and plume dominated wildfires.

Fire-line Handbook Jan. '98

Fight fire aggressively, but provide for safety first.

Initiate all action based on current and expected fire behavior.

Recognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts.

Ensure instructions are given and understood.

Obtain current information on status.

Remain in communication with crewmembers, your supervisor, and adjoining forces.

Determine safety zones and escape routes.

Establish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.

Remain in control at all times.

Stay alert, keep calm, act decisively.

NWCG Handbook 3