

San Mateo County Fire Service
Policy & Guideline Manual

P-216

Out Team

P-216.1 PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide additional safety for firefighters at emergency incidents and to insure that all joint operations involving San Mateo fire agencies adhere to applicable State and Federal regulations. This policy outlines specific procedures to be followed by firefighters operating in an IDLH (immediately dangerous to life and health) atmosphere.

P-216.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the San Mateo County Fire Chiefs that entry team personnel shall follow the specific procedures and requirements outlined below for any operations within an IDLH atmosphere. Incident Commanders shall also assign an “Out Team” of at least two trained and equipped firefighters to assist with emergency rescue of entry team members. Accountability on the Incident is the ultimate responsibility of the Incident Commander, working with established ICS positions on the Incident. All personnel assigned to an ICS position should maintain accountability for the companies / personnel assigned to them.

P-216.3 REFERENCES

29 CFR 1910.134 Respiratory Protection Standard

NFPA 1500: Health and Safety Program, part 204.2.

ICS – 910 Firefighter Incident Safety and Accountability Guidelines

San Mateo County Fire Service Policies and Standards Manual Rapid Intervention Crew Policy No. 2000-10

P-216.4 PROCEDURES

1. All personnel shall wear positive-pressure SCBA and SAR (Search and Rescue) equipment when entering IDLH atmospheres.

2. Personnel operating in hazardous areas at emergency incidents shall operate in teams of two or more.

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3. Company integrity is of the utmost importance during all fire ground activities. Direct contact between inside team members shall be maintained via voice, visual, or tether line. Radios are not acceptable as the only means of contact between crew members operating within an IDLH atmosphere.
4. The ICS identification term for the Outside Rescue Team in San Mateo County will be known as the **Out Team**. The **Out Team** shall be maintained until the RIC Apparatus designated on the initial alarm assignment arrives on the scene and establishes the Incident RIC Team.
5. The Out Team should consist of an assigned Company outside the IDLH atmosphere assigned to provide immediate rescue.
 - a. The Out Team members shall be in full protective clothing, with SCBA, rescue equipment, communications-equipped and dedicated at the point of entry to the IDLH atmosphere.
 - b. The Out Team may include the Incident Commander or an apparatus operator if properly dressed and equipped.
6. Full compliance with this policy and procedures is required except:
 - a. When immediate action is required to prevent loss of life or serious injury.
 - b. When a single team of less than four personnel is on the scene and required to perform rescue activities. In this case, the rescue team shall direct responding companies to provide necessary rescue support and back-up upon arrival.
 - c. When the fire is in the incipient stage.
7. No exception shall be permitted when there is no possibility to save lives.

When a Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) is established, the Incident Commander shall have the following options with regard to the status of the Out Team:

- a. Disband the Out Team and reassign the crew as needed on Incident Suppression Activities.
- b. Disband the Out Team and reassign the crew as part of the RIC Deployment resources.

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8. Every rescue action will be investigated and a report forwarded to the agency Fire Chief.