

**LAKEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT  
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

SOG NUMBER: 301.03

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

DATE IMPLEMENTED: MAY 8, 2017  
DATE REVISED:

TITLE: TWO-IN/TWO-OUT RULE

**PURPOSE:**

This provision is promulgated to prevent accidents, injuries and deaths to interior firefighters operating at an emergency incident and to define the minimum personnel requirements for the safe conduct of interior firefighters.

**SCOPE:**

This provision applies to all personnel operating at an emergency incident doing interior firefighting.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. A minimum of four (4) fire personnel must be on the scene of all working structure fires prior to conducting interior operations. Two (2) firefighters shall enter the structure to conduct interior operations and remain in visual or voice contact with one another at all times; two (2) firefighters shall remain located outside the structure.
2. One of the two firefighters located outside the Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) atmosphere may be assigned to an additional role, such as Incident Commander in charge of the emergency or Safety Officer, so long as this firefighter is able to perform assistance or rescue activities without jeopardizing the safety or health of any firefighter working at the incident.
3. If less than four (4) fire personnel arrive on the scene of a working structure fire, they shall initiate the necessary exterior actions in preparation for an interior attack while awaiting the arrival of additional personnel.

**EXCEPTION:**

If, upon arrival with less than four (4) members at the scene of a working structural fire, it is the professional judgement of the Officer-in-Charge (OIC), which may be the Senior Firefighter on the scene, that a LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION EXISTS THAT REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PREVENT THE LOSS OF LIFE OR SERIOUS INJURY, entry into the structure may be made in accordance with accepted safety practices. No exception shall be permitted when there is no chance of saving lives. Prior to such entry, the OIC shall inform Headquarters and responding personnel of his/her decision.