

<b>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</b> Standard Operating Procedures		
<b>Functional Area:</b> SUPPORT SERVICES/FIRE SERVICES	<b>Reference Number:</b> IVN10-0005	<b>Revises Previous Effective Date:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH/OPERATING AT EMERGENCY INCIDENTS		NEW
<b>Authority:</b> WETHERINGTON/HODGE	<b>Effective Date:</b> 4/01/02	Page 1 of <div style="text-align: center;">4</div>

**I. POLICY:**

This standard applies to Firefighters operating at an emergency incident. It was promulgated to:

- A. Prevent accidents, injuries, and deaths that might result from an unsafe act while Firefighters are operating at an emergency incident.
- B. Define the minimum personnel requirements for the safe conduct of emergency scene operations.

**II. APPLICABILITY:**

All Department of Corrections Certified Firefighters in State and County Fire Departments.

**III. RELATED DIRECTIVES:**

NFPA 1500

**IV. DEFINITIONS:**

NONE

**V. ATTACHMENTS:**

NONE

**VI. PROCEDURE:**

**A. (Guidelines)**

- 1. No Firefighter shall commence or perform any firefighting or rescue function or evolution that is

Functional Area: SUPPORT SERVICES/FIRE SERVICES	Prev. Eff. Date: NEW	Page 2 of 4
	Effective Date: 4/01/02	Reference Number: IVN10-0005

not within the established safety criteria of the Department.

- a. Activities that present a significant risk to the safety of a Firefighter shall be limited to situations where there is a potential to save endangered lives.
  - b. It is unacceptable to risk the safety of a Firefighter when there is no chance of saving lives or property.
  - c. In situations where the risk to a Firefighter is excessive, activities shall be limited to defensive operations.
2. When an inexperienced Firefighter is working at an incident, direct supervision by an experienced officer or Firefighter shall be provided.
  3. Firefighters operating in hazardous areas at emergency incidents shall operate in teams of two or more. Team Firefighters operating in hazardous areas shall be in constant communication with each other through visual, auditory, or physical means or through the use of a safety guide rope so as to coordinate their activities. Team Firefighters shall remain in close proximity to each other to provide assistance in case of emergency.
  4. An interior firefighting effort at a working structural fire shall not take place until a minimum of four firefighters are present.
    - a. When only four Firefighters are present, two Firefighters shall work as a team in the hazardous area and two Firefighters shall remain outside the hazardous area and be available for entry into the hazardous area if assistance is required.
    - b. A working fire is defined as a fire that requires the use of a 1 ½-inch or larger attack line and the use of SCBA.

Functional Area: SUPPORT SERVICES/FIRE SERVICES	Prev. Eff. Date: NEW	Page 3 of 4
	Effective Date: 4/01/02	Reference Number: IVN10-0005

5. The standby Firefighters shall be responsible for maintaining a constant awareness of the number and identity of the Firefighters operating in the hazardous area, their location and function, and their time of entry. The standby Firefighters shall remain in radio, visual, voice, or signal line communication with the team.
  
6. One standby Firefighter shall be permitted to perform other duties outside of the hazardous area, such as serving as an apparatus operator or incident commander, provided that constant communication is maintained between the standby Firefighter and the Firefighters of the team in the hazardous area.
  - a. The assignment of personnel to other duties shall not be permitted if the abandonment of their assignment would jeopardize the safety and health of any Firefighter working at the incident.
  - b. The assignment of personnel to other duties shall not be permitted if their assignment inhibits their ability to assist in or perform a rescue.
  - c. Standby Firefighters shall have full protective clothing and SCBA available to them.
  
7. Exception: Rescue operations may be undertaken prior to the assembly of four Firefighters if there is an imminent life-threatening situation and immediate action could prevent the loss of life or serious injury. No exception shall be permitted when there is no chance of saving lives.
  
8. When a second team is assigned to or begins operating in the hazardous area, the Station Chief shall designate at least one rapid intervention team (RIT) to stand by in the event that a rescue becomes necessary.
  - a. The RIT shall consist of at least two Firefighters. The team shall have full protective clothing and SCBA available to them.

Functional Area: SUPPORT SERVICES/FIRE SERVICES	Prev. Eff. Date: NEW	Page 4 of 4
	Effective Date: 4/01/02	Reference Number: IVN10-0005

- b. During the initial stages of an incident, the RIT may be used to perform other functions provided that the team is immediately available to perform a rescue if so required.
  - c. As an incident grows in complexity, the number of RIT's shall be increased proportionately and shall be dedicated solely to this responsibility.
9. At lease one ambulance shall stand by during all working incidents and be available to treat injuries and to provide transport if necessary.
  10. Firefighters operating from aerial devices shall be secured to the device by an approved safety harness.
  11. Apparatus shall be used as a shield against oncoming traffic whenever possible.

**B. RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. It shall be the responsibility of each Firefighter to fully comply with the provisions of this standard.
2. Station Chiefs shall be responsible for keeping their crews together and for ensuring that they do not expose their crews to unnecessary risks.
3. The Station Chief shall be responsible for ordering sufficient resources to ensure that all emergency incident functions are performed in a safe manner.