

IMMEDIATELY DANGEROUS TO LIFE AND HEALTH ATMOSPHERE (IDLH) INCIDENTS

1736

(No. 23 May 1999)

IDLH is defined as an atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

INTERIOR OPERATIONS

1736.1

(No. 23 May 1999)

Interior operations include the physical activity of fire suppression, rescue, or any emergency activities inside of buildings, enclosed structures, or confined spaces. Interior structural fire fighting operations, as defined in this policy, are those operations involving a fire situation beyond the incipient stage. Incipient stage of development is defined as being a fire which is in the initial or beginning stage and can be controlled or extinguished by means of a portable fire extinguisher, Class II standpipe or small hose systems without the need for protective clothing or breathing apparatus. Any structure fire beyond the incipient stage is considered to be immediately dangerous to life or health.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERIOR OPERATIONS WITHIN IDLH ATMOSPHERES:

1736.1.1

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- A. SCBAs shall be worn.
- B. The buddy system will be used.
- C. The Back Up Crew (BUC), or Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) with Entry Crews in the IDLH will maintain constant monitoring, using visual, voice, or signal communications.
- D. Entry Crews will be backed up:
 - On an initial entry into an IDLH atmosphere a Back Up Crew (BUC) will be immediately available.
 - On an extended entry when additional resources are available or ordered a Rapid Intervention Crew/Company will be established.
 - Either crew will provide the minimum safety back up required for entry into an IDLH atmosphere.
 - Incident Commander to be notified prior to entry.

NOTE: A BUC is used for initial entries. The BUC shall have one member in appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on immediate standby in support of the IDLH entry crew. The second BUC member must have appropriate PPE on but may provide other incident support activities. This member must be ready to assist in any rescue effort in support of the Entry Crew. The BUC is used primarily for initial response forces and should revert to a RIC when additional resources are available.

A Rapid Intervention Crew/Company (RIC) is a dedicated back up crew, used for extended incidents to support entry crews working in IDLH atmospheres.

EXCEPTION:

1736.1.2

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If, upon arriving at the scene, firefighters find an imminent life-threatening situation where immediate action may prevent the loss of life or serious injury, the above requirements may be suspended. When such immediate action is necessary the Emergency Command Center (ECC) will be notified. The ECC shall notify all responding resources that an entry is in progress. Responding resources shall provide the necessary rescue support and backup upon their arrival.

[\(see next section\)](#)

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[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)