

# GEORGIA

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## FIRE POLICY + TRAINING



# Georgia Fire & Rescue Lexipol Policy Manual

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## Rapid Intervention/Two-In Two-Out

### 303.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to increase firefighter safety by implementing procedures for safeguarding and rescuing firefighters who are operating in environments that are immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH).

This policy applies to all members assigned to an incident and is designed to ensure immediate assistance for members who become lost, trapped or injured by adhering to the two-in/two-out standard and designating rapid intervention teams (RITs).

#### 303.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH)** - Any 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 atmospheric conditions at structure fires beyond the incipient stage are considered IDLH, as are a variety of rescue types.

**Initial rapid intervention team (IRIT)** - A team of at least two members located outside the IDLH atmosphere to initially monitor and provide emergency rescue for responders until a larger, more formalized rapid intervention team (RIT) is created. One of the two members may be assigned to an additional role, as long as the individual is able to perform assistance or rescue activities without jeopardizing the safety or health of any firefighter at the incident. An IRIT is also known as two-in/two-out.

**Mayday** - The nationally adopted "call for help" term used to indicate that an emergency responder is in a situation of imminent peril where he/she is in need of immediate help.

**Rapid intervention team (RIT)** - A formalized designated team of individuals or companies whose sole function is to prepare, monitor and provide for effective emergency rescue of responders in IDLH atmospheres.

### 303.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Georgia State Master Fire Department to ensure that adequate personnel are on-scene before interior operations begin in any IDLH environment. However, nothing in this policy is meant to preclude firefighters from performing emergency rescue activities before an entire team has assembled.

### 303.3 PRE-DEPLOYMENT

Prior to initiating any fire attack in any IDLH environment with no confirmed rescue in progress, members should ensure that there are sufficient resources on-scene to establish two-in/two-out procedures (29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4)).

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- (a) Members should ensure that at least two firefighters using self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) enter the IDLH environment and remain in voice or visual contact with one another at all times.
- (b) At least two additional firefighters should be located outside the IDLH environment.
  1. One of the two outside firefighters may be assigned to an additional role so long as the individual is able to perform assistance or rescue activities without jeopardizing the safety or health of any firefighter working at the incident.

#### **303.4 INITIAL DEPLOYMENT**

During the initial phase of an incident, confirmed rescues should take priority. When a confirmed rescue is identified during the initial phase of an incident, emergency rescue activities may be performed before a designated IRIT has assembled.

All members operating in IDLH environments should be tracked and accounted for at all times, except when it would preclude firefighters from performing emergency rescue activities during the initial phase of the incident.

#### **303.5 RIT DUTIES**

The RIT should be assembled from resources at the scene, whose sole function is to prepare for, monitor and provide effective emergency rescue for responders.

- (a) To the extent possible, visual and voice communication should be maintained between those working in the IDLH environment and the RIT outside the IDLH environment.
- (b) RIT members should not be involved in any other duties that divert attention or resources away from their primary mission of responder rescue.
- (c) Additional companies may be assigned to the RIT as conditions warrant. For large incidents with multiple points of entry, multiple RITs should be considered.

#### **303.6 EMERGENCY DEPLOYMENT OF A RIT**

When a Mayday firefighter-down or firefighter-missing broadcast is transmitted, all non-emergency radio traffic should be cleared from the radio channels that the missing or trapped firefighter is using. Non-affected personnel should switch to other tactical frequencies. At least two individuals should be dedicated solely to monitoring the tactical channel. One person should be responsible for gathering information on the identity, location and condition of the trapped or missing firefighter, while the second person should communicate with the trapped or missing firefighter and offer support on the tactical channel.

For an emergency deployment of a RIT, a Rescue Group Supervisor position should be activated to coordinate the rescue as well as any fire activities in support of the rescue effort. Other divisions and groups may support the Rescue Group Supervisor's efforts by diverting fire spread through horizontal or vertical ventilation to draw fire away from the affected rescue areas and by placing hose streams to check fire spread and protect rescue efforts.



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The RIT supervisor should notify the Rescue Group Supervisor before making entry for emergency rescue. The Rescue Group Supervisor should provide any assistance that is appropriate to the situation. Additional resources should be ordered as needed, including additional RITs, medical treatment and transportation groups or other organizational elements.

## Personal Protective Equipment

### 912.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to reasonably protect Georgia State Master Fire Department members by providing and maintaining, at no cost to the member, personal protective equipment (PPE), safety devices and safeguards for workplace activities. PPE information related to patient care is found in the Communicable Diseases Policy.

### 912.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Georgia State Master Fire Department to provide PPE and safeguards of the proper type, design, strength and quality needed to reasonably eliminate, preclude or mitigate a hazard.

The Georgia State Master Fire Department shall also establish a written maintenance, repair, servicing and inspection program for protective clothing and equipment to reduce the safety and health risks associated with improper selection, poor maintenance, inadequate care, excess wear and improper use of PPE.

### 912.3 PPE STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS

The Department will provide approved PPE that is appropriate for the hazard to members who are located in a workplace where there is a risk of injury. Members shall be expected to wear the PPE any time there is a risk of exposure to a hazard. PPE shall include all of the following guidelines, requirements and standards (29 CFR 1910.132):

- (a) The PPE provided shall minimally meet the standards approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or other recognized authority.
- (b) When no authoritative standard exists for PPE or a safety device, the use of such equipment shall be subject to inspection and acceptance or rejection by the Battalion Chief in charge of the Division where the equipment will be used.
- (c) PPE shall be distinctly marked so as to facilitate easy identification of the manufacturer.
- (d) The Training Captain shall ensure that the member is properly instructed and uses PPE in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- (e) The Department shall ensure that all PPE, whether provided by the Department or the member, complies with the applicable state standards.
- (f) Members are responsible for maintaining their assigned PPE in a safe and sanitary condition.
- (g) Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that all PPE is maintained in a safe and sanitary condition.
- (h) PPE shall be of such design, fit and durability as to provide adequate protection against the hazards for which they are designed.

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### *Personal Protective Equipment*

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- (i) PPE shall be reasonably comfortable and shall not unduly encumber member movements that are necessary to perform work.

#### 912.3.1 HEAD PROTECTION

Members working in locations where there is a risk of head injuries from flying or falling objects and/or electric shock and burns shall wear an approved protective helmet. Each protective helmet shall bear the original marking required by the ANSI standard under which it was approved. At a minimum, the marking shall identify the manufacturer, the ANSI designated standard number and date, and the ANSI designated class of helmet. Where there is a risk of injury from hair entanglements in moving parts of machinery, combustibles or toxic contaminants, members shall confine their hair to eliminate the hazard (29 CFR 1910.135).

#### 912.3.2 FACE AND EYE PROTECTION

Members working in locations where there is a risk of eye injuries, such as punctures, abrasions, contusions or burns from contact with flying particles, hazardous substances, projectiles or injurious light rays that are inherent in the work or environment, shall be safeguarded by means of face or eye protection. Suitable screens or shields isolating the hazardous exposure may be considered adequate safeguarding for nearby members. The Department shall provide and require that members wear approved face and eye protection suitable for the hazard and in accordance with previously cited national standards (29 CFR 1910.133).

#### 912.3.3 BODY PROTECTION

Body protection may be required for members whose work exposes parts of their bodies that are not otherwise protected from hazardous or flying substances or objects. Clothing appropriate for the work being done shall be worn. Loose sleeves, tails, ties, lapels, cuffs or other loose clothing that can be entangled in moving machinery shall not be worn. Clothing saturated with flammable liquids, corrosive substances, irritants or oxidizing agents shall either be removed and not worn until properly cleaned, or shall be destroyed (29 CFR 1910.132).

#### 912.3.4 HAND PROTECTION

Hand protection shall be required for members whose work involves unusual and excessive exposure of hands to cuts, burns, harmful physical or chemical agents or radioactive materials that are encountered and capable of causing injury or impairment.

Hand protection (e.g., gloves) shall not be worn where there is a danger of the hand protection becoming entangled in moving machinery or materials. Use of hand protection around smooth-surfaced rotating equipment does not constitute an entanglement hazard if it is unlikely that the hand protection will be drawn into the danger zone.

Wristwatches, rings or other jewelry should not be worn while working with or around machinery with moving parts in which such objects may be caught or around electrical equipment (29 CFR 1910.138).

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#### 912.3.5 FOOT PROTECTION

Appropriate foot protection shall be required for members who are exposed to foot injuries from electrical hazards; hot, corrosive or poisonous substances; falling objects; or crushing or penetrating actions, or who are required to work in abnormally wet locations. Footwear that is defective or inappropriate to the extent that its ordinary use creates the possibility of foot injuries shall not be worn. Footwear shall be appropriate for the hazard and shall comply with recognized national standards (29 CFR 1910.136).

#### **912.4 SELECTION, CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF PPE**

PPE exists to provide the member with an envelope of protection from multiple hazards and repeated exposures. For structural firefighting, PPE is a system of components designed to work as an ensemble. Typical firefighting PPE consists of a hood, helmet, jacket, trousers, gloves, wristlets and footwear. A program for selection, care and maintenance of PPE consists of the following.

##### 912.4.1 SELECTION

The PPE selection process should be conducted through a labor-management committee utilizing members from labor and representatives from management.

Prior to procurement, a risk assessment may be performed to include expected hazards, frequency of use, past experiences, geographic location and climatic conditions. The selection process should evaluate comparative information on all ensemble elements to ensure they will interface and perform based on the risk assessment. The process should consider the following:

- (a) PPE performance expectations, to include thermal and physiological effects
- (b) Style and design for user comfort and wear performance
- (c) Construction for quality, durability and garment life
- (d) Manufacturer ability to meet performance demand requirements, technical information, service, warranty and customer support needs

##### 912.4.2 INSPECTION

There are two primary types of PPE inspection:

**Routine inspection** - Each firefighter shall conduct a routine inspection of his/her issued PPE each time the elements are exposed or are suspected of having been exposed to damage or contamination.

- (a) Coat, trouser, gloves and hood should be checked for the following:
  - 1. Soiling
  - 2. Contamination from hazardous materials or biological agents
  - 3. Physical damage, such as:
    - (a) Rips, tears and cuts
    - (b) Damaged/missing hardware and closure systems

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- (c) Thermal damage, such as charring, burn holes and melting
  - (d) Damaged or missing reflective trim
  - (e) Shrinkage
  - (f) Loss of elasticity or flexibility at openings
- (b) Helmets should be checked for the following:
- 1. Soiling
  - 2. Contamination from hazardous materials or biological agents
  - 3. Physical damage to the shell, such as:
    - (a) Cracks, crazing (small cracks), dents and abrasions
    - (b) Thermal damage to the shell, such as bubbling, soft spots, warping or discoloration
  - 4. Physical damage to ear flaps, such as:
    - (a) Rips, tears and cuts
    - (b) Thermal damage, such as charring, burn holes and melting
  - 5. Damaged or missing components of suspension and retention systems
  - 6. Damaged or missing components of the goggle system including:
    - (a) Discoloration
    - (b) Crazing (small cracks)
    - (c) Scratches to goggle lens, limiting visibility
  - 7. Damaged or missing reflective trim
- (c) Footwear should be checked for the following:
- 1. Soiling
  - 2. Contamination from hazardous materials or biological agents
  - 3. Physical damage, such as:
    - (a) Cuts, tears and punctures
    - (b) Thermal damage, such as charring, burn holes and melting
    - (c) Exposed or deformed steel toe, steel midsole and shank
    - (d) Loss of water resistance

**Advanced inspection** - Advanced inspection of PPE ensembles and elements shall be conducted a minimum of every 12 months or whenever routine inspections indicate a problem may exist.

Advanced inspections shall only be conducted by trained and certified members or a manufacturer-approved vendor certified to conduct advanced inspections. All findings from advanced inspections shall be documented on an inspection form. Universal precautions shall

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be observed, as appropriate, when handling elements. Advanced inspections shall include, at a minimum, the inspection criteria outlined in the NFPA.

#### 912.4.3 CLEANING AND DECONTAMINATION

The following rules and restrictions shall apply to the cleaning and decontamination of PPE:

- (a) Soiled and contaminated PPE elements shall not be taken home, washed in the home or washed in public laundries unless the business is dedicated to handling firefighting protective clothing.
- (b) Commercial dry cleaning shall not be used.
- (c) The Department will examine the manufacturer's label and user information for specific cleaning instructions.
- (d) Chlorine bleach or chlorinated solvents shall not be used to clean or decontaminate PPE elements.
- (e) Scrubbing or spraying with high-velocity water jets, such as a power washer, shall not be used.
- (f) All contract cleaning or decontamination businesses shall demonstrate procedures for cleaning and decontamination that do not compromise the performance of PPE ensembles and elements. Department standards identify and define three primary types of cleaning: routine, advanced and specialized.
  - 1. **Routine cleaning** - After each use, any elements that are soiled shall receive routine cleaning. It is the firefighter's responsibility to routinely clean his/her PPE ensemble or elements using the following process:
    - (a) When possible, initiate cleaning at the incident scene.
    - (b) Brush off any dry debris.
    - (c) Gently rinse off debris with a water hose.
    - (d) If necessary, scrub gently with a soft bristle brush and rinse off again if necessary. Spot clean utilizing a utility sink.
    - (e) Inspect for soiling and contamination and repeat the process if necessary.
    - (f) All elements shall be air-dried in an area with good ventilation. Do not dry in direct sunlight or use a machine dryer.
  - 2. **Advanced cleaning** - Should routine cleaning fail to render the elements clean enough to be returned to service, advanced cleaning is required. In addition, elements that have been issued, used and soiled shall undergo advanced cleaning every six months, at a minimum.
    - (a) The department's Health and Safety Officer (HSO) shall manage all advanced cleaning utilizing a qualified contract cleaner.
    - (b) Advanced cleaning will be coordinated with the HSO by either the crew or by the individual. Loaner PPE will be provided for any member scheduled to work.

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- (c) Station laundering machines shall not be used to clean PPE elements.
3. **Specialized cleaning** - PPE elements that are contaminated with hazardous materials or biological agents shall undergo specialized cleaning as necessary to remove the specific contaminants.
- (a) The PPE elements that are contaminated or suspected to be contaminated shall be isolated, tagged, bagged and removed from service until they undergo specialized cleaning to remove the specific contaminant. All bagged PPE shall include the member's name, company and shift. Universal precautions shall be observed when handling known or suspected contaminated PPE elements. For more information on decontamination of PPE after exposure, refer to the Communicable Diseases Policy.
- (b) The department's HSO shall manage all specialized cleaning and will utilize a qualified contract cleaner. The Department, if possible, shall identify the suspected contaminant and consult the manufacturer for an appropriate decontamination agent and process.

#### 912.4.4 REPAIR OF PPE

The department's HSO shall manage all PPE repairs utilizing a manufacturer-recognized repair facility. All elements shall be subject to an advanced or specialized cleaning before any repair work is done. Loaner PPE is available to members while repairs are being made.

#### 912.4.5 ISSUING PPE

All PPE ensembles or elements shall be issued through the department's HSO. All fittings shall be completed by the HSO and/or by a manufacturer's representative.

- Members shall only use department-issued PPE.
- Members shall minimize the public's exposure to soiled or contaminated PPE and avoid wearing PPE to non-fire related emergencies.
- Members shall not wear PPE inside station living quarters or other department facilities.

#### 912.4.6 STORAGE OF PPE

The parameters for the storage of all PPE ensembles or elements include the following:

- (a) PPE shall not be stored in direct sunlight or exposed to direct sunlight when it is not being worn.
- (b) PPE shall be clean, dry and well ventilated before storage.
- (c) PPE shall not be stored in airtight containers unless the container is new and unused.
- (d) PPE shall not be stored at temperatures below 40 degrees F or above 180 degrees F.
- (e) PPE shall be stored in a protective case or bag to prevent damage if stored in compartments or trunks.

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- (f) PPE shall not be subjected to sharp objects, tools or other equipment that could damage the ensemble or elements.
- (g) PPE shall not be stored inside living quarters or with personal belongings, or taken or transported within the passenger compartment of personal vehicles unless it is stored in a protective case or bag.
- (h) PPE shall not be stored in contact with hydraulic fluids, solvents, hydrocarbons, hydrocarbon vapors or other contaminants.

#### 912.4.7 PPE TRAINING

The Training Captain shall be responsible for the following:

- (a) Upon issue, all members shall be provided training on this policy along with the manufacturer's written instructions on the care, use and maintenance of their PPE, including any warnings issued by the manufacturer.
- (b) New firefighters shall receive training in the care, use and maintenance of their PPE before participating in live fire training or operations. All other firefighters shall receive training as needed when PPE ensembles or elements are upgraded or changed.

#### 912.4.8 PPE RECORD KEEPING

The Department shall maintain or require contracted vendors to maintain records on all structural firefighting ensembles or elements to include:

- (a) The name of the member to whom the element is issued.
- (b) The date and condition of the element when issued.
- (c) The manufacturer, model name or design.
- (d) The manufacturer's identification number, lot number or serial number.
- (e) The month and year of manufacture.
- (f) The dates and findings of all advanced inspections.
- (g) The dates of advanced cleaning, specialized cleaning or decontamination, and by whom it was performed.
- (h) The date of any repairs, the person who repaired the PPE and a brief description of the repair.
- (i) The date the element was removed from service (retirement).
- (j) The date and method the element was disposed.

#### 912.4.9 PPE RETIREMENT

All PPE ensembles and elements that are worn or damaged to the extent that the Department deems that it is not possible or cost effective to repair shall be retired. All PPE ensembles and



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elements that are no longer useful for emergency operations but are not contaminated, defective or damaged shall be retired.

Retired PPE ensembles and elements shall be destroyed or disposed of by the Department in a manner ensuring that they will not be used in any firefighting or emergency activities, including training. Retired PPE may only be used for training when that training does not include live fire. Any PPE used for training shall be clearly marked: "Training only. No live fire."

#### 912.4.10 SPECIAL INCIDENT PROCEDURE

If any member of the Georgia State Master Fire Department suffers a serious injury or death while wearing PPE, the following procedure should be followed:

- (a) The PPE will immediately be removed from service.
- (b) Custody of the PPE will be maintained by the Fire Chief or the authorized designee, and the PPE shall be kept in a secure location with controlled, documented access.
- (c) All PPE shall be non-destructively tagged and stored only in paper or cardboard containers to prevent further degradation or damage. Plastic airtight containers shall not be used.
- (d) The PPE shall be made available to the department's investigation team (see the Line-of-Duty Death and Serious Injury Investigations Policy) or outside experts as approved by the Fire Chief or the authorized designee, to determine the condition of the PPE.
- (e) The Fire Chief or the authorized designee shall determine the retention period for storage of the PPE.

## Daily Training Bulletins

### Better Policy Understanding in Just Minutes a Day

Even the best policy manual isn't effective if it's not backed by ongoing training. Yet too often, public safety agencies merely ask personnel to acknowledge policies; they don't train on them. This creates risk for personnel and vulnerability for the agency.

Lexipol's Daily Training Bulletins use a proven system of solid, realistic, ongoing and verifiable training to help personnel learn to apply policies and improve their ability to make well-reasoned decisions. These brief, scenario-based lessons provide a convenient way to enhance your members' policy understanding. Each Daily Training Bulletin takes just a few minutes to complete and includes a test question to measure comprehension.

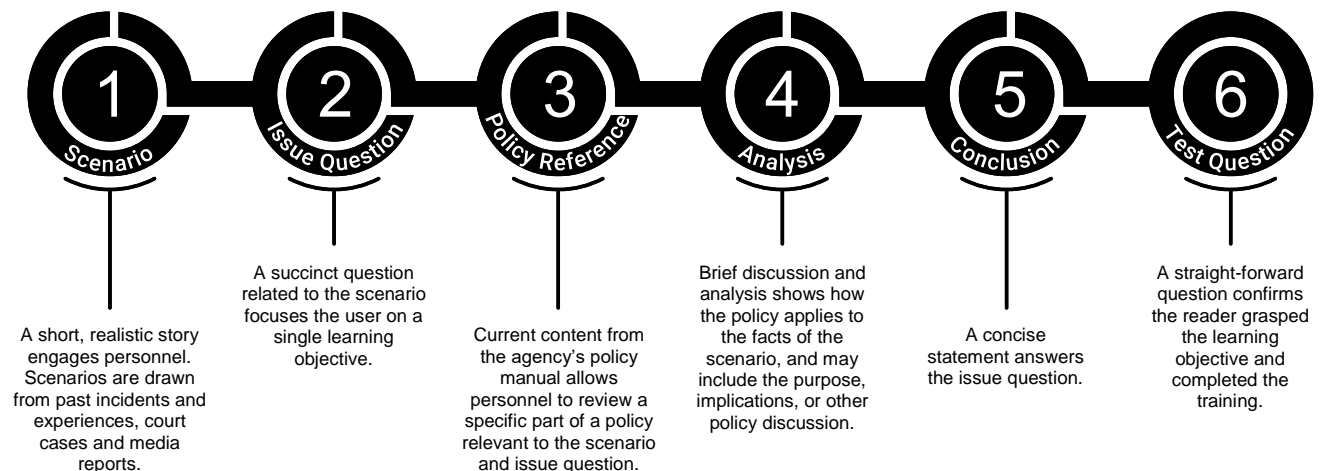
### Training Designed to Protect

Lexipol's Daily Training Bulletins cover many aspects of your policy manual, with a focus on high-risk, low-frequency events – the incidents that pose the most risk to your personnel. Daily Training Bulletins are written by public safety experts and use news stories, industry reports, and court cases as inspiration to create realistic, relatable scenarios.

Each month, you'll receive a package of Daily Training Bulletins to review and issue to your members. Using Lexipol's online platform, you can:

- Customize and edit the training bulletins to reflect agency-specific practices
- Determine when you want your personnel to complete training and how many training bulletins you want to issue
- Tailor training so specific groups are assigned to complete only the bulletins applicable to them
- Generate reports that track completion of training
- Create custom training bulletins, or group bulletins into special-focus training packages

### Anatomy of a Daily Training Bulletin



## Rapid Intervention - Two-In Two-Out

**Topic:** General Operations

**DTB Date:**

**SCENARIO:**

You and your crew are the only firefighters on-scene at a three-story apartment complex fire. The fire is in two units on the first floor. You are preparing to advance a hoseline to the location of the fire when you hear someone yelling above you. You look up. A woman is leaning her head out of a window and pleading for you to rescue her. The fire has almost reached her apartment.

Captain Frank Johnson says to you, "You and Firefighter Maru Lopez grab a ladder and rescue her, and I'll try to knock down the fire."

**ISSUE: Can you perform this rescue before an initial rapid intervention team (IRIT) has assembled?**

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**REFER:**

303.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH)** - Any 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 atmospheric conditions at structure fires beyond the incipient stage are considered IDLH, as are a variety of rescue types.

**Initial rapid intervention team (IRIT)** - A team of at least two members located outside the IDLH atmosphere to initially monitor and provide emergency rescue for responders until a larger, more formalized rapid intervention team (RIT) is created. One of the two members may be assigned to an additional role, as long as the individual is able to perform assistance or rescue activities without jeopardizing the safety or health of any [firefighter] at the incident. An IRIT is also known as two-in/two-out.

**Mayday** - The nationally adopted "call for help" term used to indicate that an emergency responder is in a situation of imminent peril where he/she is in need of immediate help.

**Rapid intervention team (RIT)** - A formalized designated team of individuals or companies whose sole function is to prepare, monitor and provide for effective emergency rescue of responders in IDLH atmospheres.

# Georgia Fire & Rescue

## Lexipol Policy Manual

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### 303.4 INITIAL DEPLOYMENT

During the initial phase of an incident, confirmed rescues should take priority. When a confirmed rescue is identified during the initial phase of an incident, emergency rescue activities may be performed before a designated IRIT has assembled.

All members operating in IDLH environments should be tracked and accounted for at all times, except when it would preclude [firefighter]s from performing emergency rescue activities during the initial phase of the incident.

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#### **ANALYSIS:**

Adequate staffing is critical to ensure that sufficient resources are available to perform emergency operations safely. An IRIT of two members can provide rescue for responders if needed during initial operations. A confirmed rescue may require immediate action before an IRIT has been assembled. A confirmed rescue is a priority and should be performed as soon as possible. If a rescue operation is performed before an IRIT can be assembled, an IRIT should be assembled as soon as possible. The IRIT should support the rescue operation and be prepared to rescue those performing the rescue operation, if needed.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

The confirmed rescue is a priority and should be performed as soon as possible even if it occurs before an IRIT can be assembled. If this occurs, establishing an IRIT as soon as possible will ensure a rescue team is available for responders if needed.

#### **QUESTION:**

During the initial phase of an incident, an IRIT must be assembled before a confirmed rescue can be performed.

#### **ANSWERS:**

- (a) True
- (b) False

#### **CORRECT ANSWER:**

False