

## SAN DIEGO FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT

### BULLETIN:

**NO.:** 15-122  
**DATE:** August 5, 2015  
**TO:** All Personnel  
**FROM:** Brian Fennessy, Assistant Fire Chief, Emergency Operations  
**SUBJECT:** Safety Review for Fast Response Squads

Upon review of the Fast Response Squad (FRS) Pilot Program reports, data, and operational issues the Department has determined a need to highlight current policies to increase the margin of safety for all personnel. This need is most apparent when the FRS unit is the first fire suppression unit to arrive at a working structure fire and encounter a known life hazard situation where immediate action could prevent the loss of life.

Due to the two (2) person staffing model and apparatus configuration of the FRS unit, there may not be an IRIC in place or an adequate protection line when the FRS arrives first at a structure fire. Therefore, a careful risk/benefit analysis is imperative if the FRS crew is to invoke the OSHA exemption and make entry into an IDLH environment.

Per San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Operations Manual SI02, Section 37, IV, D.1.e; "*This is the only exception.* *It is for an emergency rescue situation only and not for standard search and rescue practices.*" In these instances, the following operational procedures shall take place.

- Two (2) person crew will enter the structure together and stay within physical reach of each other at all times;
- Control Flow Path to the extent possible by closing/opening doors, windows, etc. Be mindful of wind driven fires;
- Identify and agree on at least two (2) escape routes, consider using tag lines;

Additionally, when an FRS crew has entered a structure fire with an IDLH environment, the first engine company to arrive at scene will make a high priority to establish IRIC/RIC and locate and provide the FRS crew a protection line of size and volume equal to an attack line.

Furthermore, in accordance with SDFD Operations Manual and OSHA regulations, if action is taken in accordance with the exemption provision, an FD-7 shall be submitted by the company officer to the on-duty shift commander via the chain of command, by the end of the shift.

All Operations personnel are directed to comply with these operational procedures as they pertain to the FRS units and are encouraged to adopt as best practices in all situations, including when they are staffing engine and truck companies.