**SOG**

**Responses While At Minimum Manning**

Section 1: Introduction

This Suggested Operating Guideline has been established to provide basic operating guidelines for personnel. These guidelines are not all-inclusive and may need to be deviated from as conditions dictate. This SOG does not create rights, or duties that are enforceable in court.

This guideline has been developed to provide information and recommend practices for crews responding on alarms while at minimum manning. As with any response safety of the responders is the first consideration. These practices will help to insure the safety of responders while operating at minimum manning.

Keep in mind for a minimum manning situation we are talking about changes in duties for personnel on the scene of alarms.

Section 2: Responses

Most alarms we respond to day to day will not need to be changed while at minimum manning for example EMS, Check the areas, Vehicle accidents etc.

Alarms where changes should be considered would be any alarm where an IDLH environment may exist IE Structure fires Residential/ Commercial, CO alarms, Alarm soundings Residential/ Commercial and Interior gas leaks to name a few.

During alarms where an IDLH environment may exist it is recommended that the Engineer of the apparatus be dressed in full PPE and SCBA and ready to work as a Firefighter once additional personnel arrive IE Duty Officer, Chief Officers or other personnel to man the apparatus.

The decision to make entry into any IDLH environment with only two personnel on scene should not be taken lightly.

Structure Fires: Use of a fire attack from the exterior should be used to keep progression of the fire in check. Once additional crews arrive, an interior attack can then be used.

Structure Fires with entrapment: When a report of persons trapped inside a structure crews should consider using techniques such as Vent Enter Search or using the TIC to search from windows and doors.

Co and Fire Alarm Soundings: On these type of alarms the engineer will gear up with full PPE and SCBA and appropriate equipment (TIC, water can and tool) and make entry with the officer as a team.

Inside Gas Leak: On these type of alarms the engineer will gear up with full PPE and SCBA and appropriate equipment (TIC, water can and tool) and be ready to make entry. The choice to make entry before more personnel arrive would be dependent on the reported severity of the leak.