

Subject:	INCIDENT SCENE SAFETY
Section:	PPG# 4400.25
Chapter:	Operations
Effective Date:	7/1/98

1.0 POLICY

- 1.1 It is the policy of Thurston County Fire Protection District No.5 & 9 to manage an emergency incident scene in the safest manner possible to protect our members.
- 1.2 Whenever entering any toxic atmosphere, respiratory protection shall be used. Jump seat SCBA shall be donned by members while responding to any reported structural fire or fire alarm, while still wearing their seat belt.
- 1.3 Members shall utilize the "buddy system" and work in pairs whenever an interior structural attack or operation takes place, or when working on the roof division of a structural fire.
- 1.4 Upon arrival at the emergency scene, members shall remain with their officer and all fellow members as part of a "team". They shall not venture off to do anything, unless directed by their officer to do so.
- 1.5 During overhaul operations, respiratory protection shall be worn in any smoke filled areas or where there is the possible presence of toxic gases.
- 1.6 If an unsafe condition is found while operating at an emergency or controlled burn, all members shall be notified and moved to a safer location. The Incident Commander shall use radio and verbal warnings (either in person or by messenger). If this is unsuccessful and the members are in danger, or if someone is unaccounted for and presumed in danger, the Incident Commander shall order the crew to withdraw or abandon the building in accordance with *PPG #4400.36 Emergency Fireground Signal*.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1** Officers are responsible to ensure the on-scene accountability all members assigned to them at the scene of an emergency. They shall also ensure that members do not become separated from the crew, especially in the interior of a burning building.

- 2.1.1** PPG #4400.3 shall be followed with respect to responsibilities for managing the on-scene accountability system.