

Document No. 2343
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION
OFFICE OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COMPLIANCE
CHAPTER 71
Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Section 41-15-210

Procedures for interior structural firefighting.

Synopsis:

The United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, (hereinafter AUSDOL@), properly promulgated a revised safety standard on respiratory protection. 63 Fed. Reg. 1152-01 (1998) (to be codified at 29 C.F.R. Sections 1910, 1926). This standard included provisions concerning interior structural firefighting. The record before the USDOL did not include state specific data nor did it consider the safety needs of the public fire service of South Carolina, which is not regulated by that agency.

The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation, Office of Occupational Safety and Health Compliance (hereafter ADepartment@), operates an approved state plan to allow local enforcement of occupational safety and health standards in South Carolina. These standards are equally effective as the federal standards and they regulate public sector employees, including firefighters. 29 USC Section 667 (c)

By this amendment the Department seeks to provide protection to firefighters equally effective as that provided by the federal standard and also to recognize the special needs of public sector firefighters in both urban and rural settings as well as to recognize the effectiveness of South Carolina Fire Academy training in equipping those local firefighters to exercise discretion in fighting fires.

Instructions: Amend Chapter 71, Subarticle 6 (71-600) by adding a new item G.

Text:

G. At least two employees are located outside the IDLH atmosphere; however, prior to the assembly of the entire firefighting team, a qualified incident commander may allow two or more employees to enter the IDLH atmosphere with one employee located outside the IDLH atmosphere until the arrival of additional employees, provided that the following conditions are met:

1. the incident commander has completed the Incident Command System course or its equivalent as certified by the South Carolina Fire Academy;
2. the employees who enter the IDLH atmosphere have completed the Basic Firefighter Course or its equivalent as certified by the South Carolina Fire Academy;
3. the incident commander has determined that the standard staffing pattern is not feasible;

4. the incident commander has determined that the entry can be made safely with the personnel on-site; and
5. arrival of additional employees to complete the standard staffing pattern is imminent.

Fiscal Impact Statement: There will be no additional cost incurred by the State or any political subdivision.