

TRURO FIRE RESCUE

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

S.O.G. # 115 RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM (RIT) EFFECTIVE 09-13-04

RAPID INTERVENTION FOR RESCUE OF MEMBERS

The fire department shall provide personnel for the rescue of members operating at emergency incidents if the need arises.

A Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) shall consist of at least two (2) members and shall be available for rescue of a member or a team if the need arises. RITs shall be fully equipped with the appropriate protective clothing, protective equipment, SCBA, and any specialized rescue equipment that might be needed given the specifics of the operation under way.

The composition and structure of RITs shall be permitted to be flexible based on the type of incident and the size and complexity of operations. The Incident Commander (IC) shall evaluate the situation and the risks to operating teams and shall provide one or more RITs, commensurate with the needs of the situation.

A RIT shall be implemented in two (2) phases, i.e., Initial RIT (IRIT) and Dedicated RIT (DRIT).

INITIAL RIT (IRIT)

Prior to entering an Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmosphere, an IRIT must be assembled outside the hazardous area. The IRIT is to provide assistance to the interior attack personnel in the event of an emergency. The IRIT will consist of two (2) or more personnel in full protective clothing with SCBA immediately available for deployment. The IRIT will monitor by radio the actions of the interior team and maintain visual or voice contact with them. Individual department policy will dictate who will make up these members to comply with 2 in/2 out policy.

IRIT members may be assigned other duties provided that such duties do not interfere with their ability to perform the specific functions of IRIT. Examples may include, but not be limited to; flaking a fire hose line, ground level exterior ventilation, equipment retrieval (if apparatus within 50' of Standby position), lighting, exposure protection, and exterior fire attack. In the event that the IRIT must perform functions that interfere with their mission, they will inform the IC who will then advise the interior team to withdraw immediately until another IRIT is assembled.

DEDICATED RIT (DRIT)

The objective of the DRIT is to have a fully equipped rescue team on site, in a ready state, to immediately react or respond to rescue trapped or injured firefighters. The DRIT will have the same duties and functions as the IRIT and will be established as soon as possible, typically with a minimum of 2 personnel, (preferably 4) in full protective equipment and stationed just outside the hazardous area, or as assigned by the IC, and ready for immediate entry. The DRIT will have a hose line in place (if appropriate) and have the needed rescue tools available for immediate use. The DRIT will be maintained until the IC determines they are no longer needed. Normally this will be when the incident no longer has an IDLH atmosphere and the incident has been declared

"under control."

A DRIT will be established at all incidents where fire department members are subjected to hazards that would be immediately dangerous to life and health. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Offensive fire operations
- Haz-Mat incidents
- Trench rescue
- Confined space rescue
- Dive Team operations
- Any other incidents having significant risks

PERMISSIBLE EXEMPTIONS TO THE 2 IN / 2 OUT GUIDELINES

Exemptions to these guidelines in emergency operations are permissible when immediate action is necessary to save a life. If initial attack personnel find a known life-hazard situation where immediate action could prevent the loss of life, deviation from this guideline may be permitted as an exception. However, such deviations from the regulations must be exceptions, and not standard practices. The exception is for a known life rescue only, and not for standard search and rescue activities.

Fire apparatus responding to an incident scene as a DRIT crew or assigned that function upon arrival the Officer will immediately report to the IC for a situation report, special assignments, tactics and strategy being deployed, and what the IC wants for equipment available.

MINIMUM INITIAL EQUIPMENT TO REPORT

Upon arrival at the scene, the assigned RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) will report to the IC with the following minimum equipment.

- Full Protective Clothing
- SCBA
- Portable Radio(s)
- Haligan
- Flat head axe
- Pike Pole or Rake
- Search line
- Thermal Imaging Camera (if available)

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The RIT officer and/or IC should consider assembling additional tools beyond the minimum required, taking into consideration the type of incident, size of incident and building construction. These additional tools may include, but not be limited to:

- Additional SCBA's
- Spare SCBA bottles
- Additional portable radio(s)

- Additional search lines
- Rotary Saw with metal cutting blade
- Power Saws appropriate for the building construction
- Ground Ladders appropriate for the building construction
- Handsaws
- Rabbit Tool
- Mauls
- Stokes Stretcher
- Additional Rope
- Wire Cutters
- Addition Lighting Equipment

ROLE OF RIT OFFICER

Check with IC

- Building construction type
- Extent of fire
- Companies making progress?
- Mode
- How long operation been underway?
- Companies on scene and assignments
- Companies in staging
- Is EMS available?
- Staging location for Teams and tools
- To whom does RIT report?
- Radio frequency to operate on? Consider C-9 (Fire ground Direct) by I. C. when deployed
- Building preplan available?
- Accountability system - Level I, II, or III - Personnel Accountability Report (P.A.R.) 10-15 minutes * See Note Below
- Tactics Board
- Size up IC

*** NOTE:** P.A.R. (Personnel Accountability Report): In addition to the use of Accountability Tags, many departments nationwide are using P.A.R.s at a designated time, i.e., 10, 20, 30 minutes on location, dispatch tones personnel at scene notifying a P.A.R. in one (1) minute. This gives Sector Leaders time to account for their personnel. I. C., or designee calls the roll of Sector Leaders to account for their crews that have been assigned by I.C., i.e.;

Command to 1st Floor: 1st Floor reports P.A.R.

Command to 2nd Floor: 2nd Floor reports P.A.R.

Command to Roof Sector: Roof Sector reports P.A.R.

Command to E-1: E-1 reports P.A.R.

Command to Salvage Sector: Salvage Sector reports P.A.R.

Etc.

This system is much more pro-active and timely in the event someone has gotten lost, falls into the basement and lost consciousness, etc.

The RIT Officer shall immediately size-up the building and/or incident by doing the following:

- Walk around (360° if possible)
 - Building construction
 - Where is the fire?
 - What is happening
 - Smoke
 - Fire Behavior
 - Companies making progress
 - How long operation
1. Hazards
 2. Means of egress
 3. Hose lines in the building
 4. PPV
 5. Overhead doors
 6. Collapse
- Other actions that may be advantageous:
7. Confirm utilities are off
 8. Improve fire ground lighting
 9. Improve secondary egress to all fire floors
 10. Clear fire ground obstructions - open fences, remove tripping hazards
 11. Request additional resources from IC or Safety Officer