

RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM

Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) – Is a rescue team specifically designated for firefighter rescue comprised of a minimum of two firefighters located outside the IDLH area of a working fire. **This team will report directly to “Command”.** A Rit will be established at any fire beyond the incipient phase of burning that requires a 1-1/2” or larger hose line to control and require the use of PPE and SCBA for members entering a hazardous area.

May Day – Is a voice radio message to designate a “distress call”. This will be reserved **ONLY** to report a firefighter that is trapped, in imminent danger in a life-threatening situation, or in need of immediate assistance. The term “emergency traffic” will be used to report all other emergencies.

Operation of the Guideline

Preparation of the Rapid Intervention Team

1. The Rapid Intervention Team will be established at any working fire or IDLH incident. The RIT shall be assembled as soon as possible from personnel assigned to the first alarm assignment.
2. The assigned RIT will report to the Incident Commander with the following minimum tools and equipment:
 - a. Full turnout gear with SCBA
 - b. R.I.T. BAG
 - c. Forcible entry tools (Halligan, flathead axe)
 - d. Portable radio
 - e. Handlight
 - f. Thermal Imaging Camera and spare batteries (one per team)
3. The RIT shall establish a tool staging area and gather additional equipment that may be needed. This should include:
 - a. Chainsaw with wood blade
 - b. Rescue saw with metal/concrete blade

- c. Short pike pole
 - d. Sledge hammer
 - e. Available hose line
 - f. R.I.T Tarp
 - g. Stokes Basket
4. The RIT shall complete a visual size-up of the building, noting any means of egress and exit, building hazards, and exposure problems. The RIT Officer, or lead person, should make a quick walk around the building if possible, to complete the Team size-up.
 5. The RIT shall assess the fire building for the need for ground or aerial ladders. The Team shall place a minimum of one ground ladder on the fire building as a second means of exit for the interior crews.
 6. The RIT shall continuously monitor fireground radio frequencies and fire conditions.
 7. The RIT Officer shall be familiar with the deployment of units via the accountability board, and be in as close proximity to the Incident Commander as possible at all times. In large structures or high-rise buildings, the RIT may need to be in close proximity to firefighters' locations.
 8. The RIT Officer shall locate the on site EMS Unit in the event a rescue is needed.

Activation of the Rapid Intervention Team

This should be used in conjunction with Lost or Trapped F.F. SOG

1. Once the nature of the emergency "MAYDAY" has been determined and reported to Command, the incident Commander shall notify RRRDC of the emergency by stating on the radio "RRRDC FROM FIRE COMMAND – "MAYDAY". The mayday should also be transmitted to those operating on the fireground.
2. The Incident Commander shall activate the RIT upon receiving the "MAYDAY" call and determining the location of the situation.
3. The IC shall immediately appoint an officer to be in charge a Rescue Branch/Division to oversee the RIT Team and coordinate the rescue operation.

4. The IC shall request an additional alarm, including an additional EMS Unit, and immediately establish at least one additional RIT at the Command Post.
5. Once the RIT has been deployed, all radio transmissions between the IC, the RIT, and the firefighter(s) in distress are considered emergency traffic, and will be conducted exclusive on the fireground frequency. The IC should consider moving all other units operating on the fireground to a different fireground frequency, to ensure control is maintained of the continuing firefighting operations.
6. The task of the RIT will include but not be limited to:
 - a. Searching the area where the missing/injured firefighter(s) were last reported.
 - b. Following the hoseline of the lost firefighter(s) to minimize rescue time.
 - c. Looking and listening for evidence of lost firefighter(s).
 - d. Searching obvious means of egress and collapsed areas.
 - e. Monitoring radio transmissions of operating companies.
 - f. Reporting all findings and progress to the Incident Commander.
7. As the need for the RIT is diminished, the RIT may be deactivated and assigned to another task.
8. Once the Mayday has been terminated, it will be announced over the fireground frequency so all members know the lost/trapped firefighter has been found.