

# Orchard Farm Fire Protection District Standard Operating Procedure

**Division: 200**      **Emergency Operations**  
**Section: 202**      **Fire & Rescue**  
**Subject: 202.20**    **Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)**



**Supersedes: N/A**

**Approved By:** 

Date: 05/22/2013

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Page: 1 of 3

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## **PURPOSE:**

To define the District's operational procedures for rapid intervention teams (RIT)

## **RESPONSIBILITY:**

All District Personnel

## **PROCEDURES:**

The objective of RIT is to have a fully equipped rescue team onsite, in a ready state, to immediately react and respond to rescue firefighters. RIT will be established anytime firefighters are on air inside a structure, or command deems it necessary.

### **Standard Exceptions to the RIT Requirement at Structure Fires**

1. When there is a reported or suspected life hazard where immediate action could prevent the loss of life.
2. When the fire is in a developing stage that could be controlled by a portable fire extinguisher.

### **IRIT (Initial RIT)**

IRIT is a temporary two-person RIT assigned at the outset of an incident to allow teams to enter an IDLH, or potential IDLH atmosphere.

One primary IRIT member must be solely dedicated to tracking interior personnel. Their function is to account for location of interior crews and initiate a fire fighter rescue. This position requires an attack line, radio, PPE, and SCBA.

The secondary IRIT member is permitted to take on other roles, such as, safety officer, or equipment operator. This position requires a radio with PPE and SCBA nearby to be donned as soon as possible.

As more crews arrive the IRIT team should be increased to a minimum RIT team of four.

## **Subject 202.20      Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)**

Date: 05/22/2013

Page: 2 of 3

### **Deployment**

RIT responsibilities:

- Monitor tactical radio channel en-route.
- Initiate tactical worksheet (location/position of apparatus and interior crews)
- Utilize standard staging procedures.

Develop and Communicate an Incident Action Plan (focus is to reduce risks to personnel)

- Consider critical fire ground factors
- Consider air management (elapsed time)
- Consider fire fighter fatigue
- Consider radio communications

Develop and Communicate a Search Plan

- Consider the point of entry for crew/member in trouble
- Consider the last known location of crew/member in trouble
- Consider fuel load, your water supply/hoseline selection (speed, mobility, and length)
- Assign tasks to entry crew (camera, air, tools, taglines, etc.)
- Monitor your air supply
- Provide timely reports to Command or Rescue Branch

Develop and Communicate a Rescue Plan

- Consider relay rescue (call additional resources early)
- Consider alternative exit points
- Consider carry vs. drag techniques (obstructions, heat, visibility)
- Monitor your air supply
- Provide timely reports to Command or Rescue Branch

### **RIT/Rescue Sector Functions**

- Monitor tactical radio channel, bag and thermal imaging camera
- Retrieve RIT bag and thermal imaging camera (confirm equipment is in ready state)
- Recon the hot zone (apparatus placement, points of entry, alternate doors and windows)

## **Subject 202.20      Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)**

Date: 05/22/2013

Page: 3 of 3

- Request additional resources
- Provide additional means of egress for roof operations or companies operating above the ground floor
- Remove security bars/devices
- Coordinate the opening of doors and windows
- Illuminate entrance and exits
- Confirm utilities are secure
- Develop and discuss the search plan
- Develop and discuss the rescue plan

### Initial Entry Team Operations

- Execute the search plan
- Locate the fire crew/member
- Assess fire fighter and environment
- Transfill air and package fire fighter
- Monitor entry team air supply
- Provide report to Command or Rescue Branch
- Prepare to extricate fire fighter

### Back-up Entry Team Operations

- RIT for entry team
- Communicate rescue plan
- Secure additional resources (as needed)
- Prepare for relay rescue
- Provide exterior support for initial entry team

Units should initially be deployed to locate injured or lost firefighters, and render aid and assistance to the member. The RIT Company(s) will then report their position and conditions to command for deployment of appropriate rescue resources to extricate the member if necessary.

RIT teams may be stood down only when the fire has been declared “under control” and PAR’s have been obtained from all crews. These members should then be assigned to other duties; such as relief for working crews, overhaul duties, etc.