



Northeast Fire Department Association

Operations

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Tactical Guidelines: Rapid Intervention Team

Approved by: _____

NEFDA President

Approved by: _____

Fire Chief

I. Overview

This policy is intended to provide an outline for the formation and operation of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) or teams. This will give both team members, as well as command a basis for the operation and organization of the team(s)

II. Terminology

1. *IDLH Atmosphere*- Immediate Danger to Life and Health. An atmosphere which is dangerous to firefighters.
2. *IRIT*- Initial Rapid Intervention Team. This is utilized early in the incident when only one crew is working in the IDLH environment. The team shall consist of at least two personnel with proper PPE and SCBA donned.
3. *RIT*- Rapid Intervention Team (Formal). A formal RIT will be established as soon as possible. RIT should consist of at least three personnel with proper PPE and SCBA donned. Team size should be determined by considering structure size and construction. Team size and numbers should also reflect the number of personnel on the scene. The RIT should assemble proper tools.
4. *MAYDAY*- Notification that a firefighter is lost, trapped, or injured and needing rescue.
5. *Personnel Accountability Report (PAR)* - Roll call of assigned personnel. For a Company Officer or Team Leader, a PAR is a confirmation that all members assigned to their unit are accounted. For the Division/Group Supervisor, a PAR is an accounting for all crews assigned to their command.
6. *RIT Bag* - Bag containing air supply, mask, regulator, and RIT search rope. The air supply consists of a SCBA bottle (45 minute minimum) with a Universal RIT Connection (URC / UAC) and low pressure connections for Scott and MSA SCBA's.
7. *TIC* - Thermal Imaging Camera

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8. *RIT Search Rope* - The large area search rope is normally located in one end of the RIT Bag. It consists of 200' of Kevlar rope. The rope will be marked or have knots that represent that number of feet you have traveled on the rope. Each knot or marking will be equivalent to 20'. This definition does not affect search ropes that are carried by fire companies, only the search ropes carried in the RIT bag.
9. *Large Area Search Rope* - The large area search rope is normally located in one end of the RIT Bag. It consists of 200' of Kevlar rope. Every 20' there is a metal ring. After that ring is a number of knots. The number of knots represents that number of feet you have traveled on the rope. Each knot is equivalent to 20'. Direction of travel can be determined by the knots as well. If you have knots then ring, you are on your way out (RING OUT). If you have a ring and then knots you are on your way into the structure.
10. *PPE - Personal Protective Equipment* - That equipment designed to protect you personally.

III. Objective

The objective of RIT is to have a fully equipped rescue team, onsite, in a ready state, to immediately react and respond to the rescue of firefighters. A RIT should be established anytime firefighters are operating in an IDLH atmosphere.

IV. Policy

It is the policy of the Fire Department to establish and support RIT at any incident in which an IDLH atmosphere will be entered.

- A. RIT members will assume a state of readiness with appropriate PPE.
- B. RIT will initially report to the Command Post. The Incident Commander (IC) and initial RIT officer will determine the location of the team(s).
- C. RIT will consist of at least three personnel.
- D. If a 2nd Alarm is initiated to support ongoing firefighting operations (the incident is not under-control), the RIT shall consist of one TRT Company augmented with other crews to total at least seven (7) personnel (original RIT company, TRT company, Battalion Chief with responding TRT company).
- E. If the RIT officer determines that additional personnel are needed to fulfill the RIT responsibilities, they will contact Command and request the appropriate resources to report to RIT Group.

V. Command Responsibilities

The Incident Commander is obligated to establish a RIT whenever personnel are operating in an IDLH atmosphere. RIT is not limited to this, and should be used whenever it will increase the overall safety of an incident.

- A. Command will appoint the appropriate number of personnel to RIT and support their needs.
- B. The number of RIT's should expand with the incident. The number of RIT's and the number of personnel on a RIT should be directly proportionate to the number of firefighters, the layout and the size of the structure.
- C. Command has the following options for use of RIT(s).
 - 1. To address visible hazards.
 - 2. To identify critical factors and apply appropriate risk/benefit analysis.
- D. When a RIT is activated, Command may consider using an alternate radio channel for suppression activities and keep the MAYDAY firefighter on the channel they called the mayday on.
- E. Command should form a separate RIT group upon a second alarm activation if not already established.
- F. NEFDA TRT activation should be considered when situations could require the need of specialized equipment to support potential rescue requirements.
- G. At least one additional alarm, with an ambulance, should be immediately requested upon activation of RIT.
- H. A PAR should be performed at RIT activation and upon completion of the RIT assignment.
- I. Additional RIT's must be formed and supported upon the activation of a RIT. Consideration should be given to calling for the additional heavy rescue.
- J. Command must realize that rescuing a firefighter is a labor intensive operation and should have the command structure, proper personnel and proper equipment in place before a Mayday event occurs.

VI. Rapid Intervention Team Responsibilities

- A. The responding Battalion Chief (RIT Group Supervisor) with the TRT Company officer shall report to Command for briefing. The RIT Group Supervisor shall establish a RIT Group Command Board and keep track of the incident and company assignments. If a "Mayday" is transmitted, he/she will run the RIT Group for Command.

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- B. Perform a scene size up. Determine challenges, points of entry, potential hazards and needed tools.
- C. Report findings of the walk around to RIT Group Supervisor and establish RIT staging location.
- D. Confirm that the utilities are secure.
- E. Retrieve equipment to include a RIT bag, TIC, along with scene and structure appropriate tools. Equipment should be assembled on the RIT tarp to indicate that they are dedicated for RIT use only.
- F. Coordinate with Command if additional resources are needed.
- G. Soften the structure by removing security bars or forcing doors. Coordinate the opening of doors and windows with Command and/or Operations. (Many times doors can be forced and then closed.)
- H. Divide the on-scene RIT personnel into two person teams (Team 1, Team 2, etc.). This increases speed and efficiency within the RIT Group.
- I. Develop a search plan as well as a rescue plan.
- J. Change air bottles or air packs if necessary to have compatibility within the teams.
- K. When activated the RIT should:
 - 1. Execute the search plan and communicate with the RIT Group Supervisor.
 - 2. Locate the crew or member. (Turn PASS device off for better communication.)
 - 3. Tie the RIT rope off to a substantial object.
 - 4. Assess the firefighter and the environment
 - 5. Trans fill air if needed
 - 6. Package firefighter for extrication (If you leave before another crew arrives, manually activate PASS.)
 - 7. Continually monitor individual RIT member's air supply
 - 8. Continually update the RIT Group Supervisor with CAN reports.

VII. Conclusion

Being assigned to RIT is a great responsibility. Be proactive and make RIT effective.