

	Terryville Fire Department Best Practices	
	<u>Subject</u> Rapid Intervention Team	BP# 3-05
	<u>Authority</u> Chief of Department	Initiated 11/1/2015 Revised

A. PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) is to be immediately available to assist a member who becomes trapped, distressed, or involved in other serious life threatening situations. The RIT must be ready to act immediately and decisively when called upon.

B. QUALIFICATIONS

1. Members must meet the following requirements to be considered a qualified RIT member:
 - Interior firefighter
 - Non-probationary member
 - Possess RIT certification (through Suffolk County Fire Academy or equivalent)
 - Attend at least 50% of all department RIT drills and/or trainings
2. A qualified crew shall be considered a chauffer, RIT officer and at least 4 RIT members.
 - The RIT officer may be a line officer or the senior RIT member
3. If the RIT has a chauffer, RIT officer and 3 RIT members, they may respond only upon authorization of a chief officer.

C. NOTIFICATION / RESPONSE

1. The dispatcher shall:
 - Dispatch the department upon a mutual aid request for a RIT to the scene of a structure fire.
 - If a qualified crew has not called in within 5 minutes, the dispatcher shall inform the requesting department that we were unable to provide a RIT.

- Notify the requesting department when a qualified crew is responding to the scene.
2. RIT members that are available for the RIT assignment should call the dispatcher and advise that they are responding and to which station they are responding to.

D. POSITION

1. The RIT shall report to and stage near the Incident Command Post (ICP), within verbal contact, at a position from which they can be readily deployed. The IC may assign the RIT to relocate to another location based on the type of building and size of operation.

E. OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The RIT officer is the most influential member of the RIT. It is important for the RIT officer to anticipate potential rescue situations presented by the fire, the fire building and the tactics implemented by operating units. In addition, the RIT officer must:
 - Constantly evaluate the progress of the operation.
 - Continually monitor the location of operating units.
 - Determine methods to identify, locate and remove a member in distress.
2. The officer of the RIT shall announce their arrival on the scene using the radio and report to the ICP, unless otherwise directed by the IC.
3. Upon arrival, the RIT officer shall verify that the IC is aware of the unit's presence and designation as RIT. If assigned by the IC to non-RIT duties, the RIT officer shall remind the IC of their RIT designation.
4. When communicating on the radio, the RIT officer and member's radio designation shall include "RIT" after the designation. (ex: "Command, Rescue 24 RIT")
5. Radio communication between RIT members does not require the use of "RIT" with their designation.
6. The RIT officer shall get a briefing from the IC and relay the information to the members of the team as to the following:
 - Fire location
 - Tactics implemented
 - Location of operating units

7. The RIT officer should pre-plan possible rescue operations based on their size-up of conditions and the location of operating units.
8. The RIT officer shall coordinate a rescue plan with the IC prior to deploying.
9. It is incumbent of the RIT officer to provide strong and decisive leadership when dealing with a distressed member as well as providing for the safety of the team.

F. RIT MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. All members of the RIT should be fully prepared to operate upon arrival. The RIT must be ready for immediate deployment as directed by the IC.
2. The RIT is responsible to know what additional equipment they are required to bring to the ICP, in addition to their regularly assigned tools. Ideally, the RIT should be made up of 1 officer and 5 firefighters.
3. The following must be assigned by the RIT officer:
 - 1 member assigned the RIT pak. This member is responsible to manage the air supply of the distressed firefighter, if needed.
 - 1 or 2 members assigned to firefighter packaging.
 - 1 or 2 members assigned to firefighter removal.
4. A survey of the fire building should be done to determine the following:
 - Access for portable ladders.
 - Presence of fire escapes and party wall balconies.
 - Building built on a grade, setbacks, and depth of the building.
 - Type and location of stairs and elevators.
 - Determine if any remote or alternate access points are available.
 - Obstructions that would hinder access to any side of the structure.
5. While staged, the RIT should develop a plan of action. This plan of action should include:
 - Information gathered from the survey.
 - Progress of the fire operations and location of operating units.
 - Expected paths of fire travel.

- Hazards posed by the type of construction, occupancy, and type of incident.
- 6. Determine the availability and location of aerial, tower and portable ladders, in the event there is a need to use and/or place into operation.
- 7. Determine the availability of an engine company to stretch a hoseline for protection.
- 8. Monitor the radio for any emergency transmissions.
- 9. Note the location of EMS personnel on scene.

G. SIZE-UP

All firefighting operations should begin with a proper size-up. This is particularly important in RIT operations as well. The focus of a RIT's size-up will be slightly different than normal since the RIT will be performing a size-up for potential distress duties, not just for fighting the fire. The 13-point size-up below (COALWASWEALTH) must be evaluated continuously, along with anticipation of possible problems to be faced by the RIT.

1. Construction

- As related to fire spread and collapse potential.

2. Occupancy

- Indicates what kind of fire spread can be anticipated and what kind of search may have to be employed (search ropes, team search, etc.)

3. Area/access

- Large areas will make for a more difficult search, unconfined fire and flashover hazard that may not be apparent.
- What access routes are available to upper floors, cellars, and roofs?
- Will there be a need for search rope?

4. Life

- Consider the area where members are operating.
- Have they all been accounted for?
- What was their last known location / assignment?

5. Weather

- Will extremes in the weather affect the readiness of the RIT and will it hamper the rescue efforts?

6. Auxiliary Appliances

- Is a sprinkler system operating?
- Is the sprinkler system hampering the rescue effort due to large amount of smoke associated with an operating sprinkler system?
- Will the sprinkler system hold the fire in check while the RIT operates?
- Can the sprinkler system be shut down to prevent a drowning danger?
- Who is supplying the sprinkler system?
- Is there a serviceable standpipe system?
- Can the standpipe system be used to help gain access to the trapped firefighters or protect the rescue effort?

7. Street Conditions

- Does an aerial or tower ladder have access to the front of the fire building?
- Can the RIT get close to the fire building with their apparatus?

8. Water Supply

- Are the first due engine companies continuing their fire attack?
- Is an engine company with a charged hoseline needed at our location?
- Are there any water source problems?

9. Exposures

- Can the exposures provide access to the fire area by breaching walls, etc.?
- Do the exposures provide both access and egress from the roof?
- Is the fire extending to the exposures that could endanger firefighters?
- Could the exposures become a secondary collapse hazard in the event of a collapse of the fire building?

10. Apparatus / Equipment

- Is all of the required equipment at the ready?
- Are the members of the RIT familiar with the operation of the apparatus of the first due units?
- Are portable ladders available?
- What other equipment may be needed and is it available?

11. Location

- What is the last known location of the trapped or distressed firefighter?
- Is the location of the fire known?
- Is the fire showing signs of extending to other floors, cockloft, or exposures?

12. Time

- How long has the fire been burning?
- The longer the fire is burning :
 - The greater the structural damage and chance of collapse.
 - The more fire gases are being pumped into the building.
 - Greater possibility of auto exposure and extension to exposures.
 - Greater chance possibility of members suffering heat exhaustion.

13. Height

- Will portable ladders be able to reach all windows?
- Is an aerial / tower ladder needed to reach certain areas?

H. OPERATIONS

1. When the RIT is deployed for a distressed member, the fire conditions in the immediate area of the rescue are likely to be severe. It is vital for the RIT officer, along with the RIT members to consider alternate access points to reach the trapped firefighter.

2. The RIT may be involved in any of the following:
 - Searching for a firefighter.
 - Removing a firefighter.
 - Assisting in the removal of a firefighter.
3. When the RIT operation requires the use of a ladder, avoid repositioning ladders already in place against a fire building unless it is a life threatening situation and a notification is made to the members operating in that area. Ladders in place may be providing a means of egress for operating firefighters.
4. Operational considering for the RIT:
 - Search team – make entry to locate, package and remove the firefighter if possible.
 - Removal / Resource team – will stage at the entrance and be available to assist. The assistance could be to relieve, augment, or supply additional equipment to the search team.
 - Use of a two-sided approach where the search team makes access via the interior and the removal team makes access via the exterior of the fire building.
 - Use of a life saving rope rescue.
5. The RIT shall remain intact and not split up when dealing with large commercial or complex buildings.
6. When the RIT is deployed at an operation for a firefighter in distress:
 - Determine the location of the firefighter based on their assignment.
 - Use the information received from the IC, operating unit or distressed firefighter to help determine their location.
 - Determine the best access to the distressed member and any alternate access points based on a pre-determined plan of action.
7. When the RIT arrives at the location of the distressed firefighter, the RIT shall:
 - Assess **FIRE, AIR, IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE, REMOVAL (FAIR)**.
 - Provide additional air supply as needed.
 - Confirm positive identification.
 - Package the firefighter for removal.

I. TOOLS/EQUIPMENT

1. In addition to normally assigned truck company tools, the RIT shall report to the ICP with the following equipment:

- RIT Pak
- Search Rope
- Stokes Basket with long backboard (if available)
- 2:1 Rope / 4:1 Rope
- Pak-Tracker (if available)
- Any additional tools determined to be needed upon a size-up (Saws, elevator keys, etc)