

Wayne County Fire Departments STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

Rapid Intervention Teams	Effective Date - 01/01/2006 Supersedes - None
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Purpose

The purpose of Wayne County Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT) is to provide a minimum crew of (4) four operational trained personnel to establish on the fire ground for the primary purpose of rapid rescue in any incidents involving injured, trapped, lost, missing, or disoriented firefighters.

Objective

To operate as a team in the safest manner possible to rescue, remove, and resolve the firefighter's hazardous situation.

Scope

This guideline applies to any situation where a firefighter or group of firefighters find themselves in an IDLH environment (collapse, structure fires, major accidents, airplane crashes, hazardous materials situations, etc.) while operating on the fire grounds. It is not limited to structure fires.

Persons Affected

All participating fire departments in Wayne County.

Responsibility

The Incident Commander is responsible for establishing the RIT during the first alarm assignment at an emergency incident, where the potential for firefighters to be lost or trapped exists. The RIT shall remain on alert status until the Incident Commander decides that the complexity of the operation no longer presents a risk to the operating teams.

Qualifications

RIT Firefighters shall be certified by the Department Chief shall:

- Posses advanced firefighting skills, preferably certified Level 1 Firefighter
- Must be competent in performing aggressive primary and secondary search and rescue
- Be physically fit
- Capable of proficiently completing all aspects of RIT Operations including but not limited to the tasks listed on page #4.

Guidelines

Assignment: The RIT shall be permitted to be flexible based on Fire Department-special conditions, type of incident and size, and complexity of operations. The Incident Commander (I.C.) and safety officer shall evaluate the situation and the risks to operating crews and shall provide (1) one or more RIT Companies, depending on the needs of the incident.

Staging: The RIT shall assemble near, but not directly at the command post, so that a visual contact with the incident commander (I.C.) can be maintained during the incident. The RIT Officer shall report directly to the Incident Commander (I.C.) and safety officer and obtain a situation report noting:

- A. How Many Firefighters are in the building
- B. How long firefighters have been working on air
- C. What type of SCBA firefighters being utilized and what size bottle
- D. Operations radio frequency

The RIT shall stage so they can see at least (2) sides of the building structure, or incident. Larger incidents may require more than (1) one RIT at opposite sides.

RIT Responsibilities

The RIT will be responsible for firefighter rescue.

The RIT will assist the Incident Commander (IC) with accountability to ensure Personnel Accountability Report (PAR).

The RIT will perform a size up of the incident. In groups of (2) two every 15-20 minutes will perform a 360* walk around noting fire conditions as they change. Other items that must be noted:

- A. Entrances/egresses of working units
- B. Fire conditions
- C. Building construction
- D. Occupancy
- E. Building size
- F. Fire location
- G. Extent of fire
- H. Progress of current operations/tactics
- I. Need for additional ladder placement (assist in placing if needed)
- J. Need for additional egress points
- K. Monitor radio traffic and maintain constant contact with the IC.
- L. Listen for mayday calls

While size up is being performed, the other team members not performing size up will set up a staging area with the minimum equipment as listed.

The RIT shall “stand fast” intact as a unit ready to take immediate action as directed by the IC. Avoid involvement in other fireground duties. The team shall maintain a state of constant readiness to react rapidly to changing fire ground conditions.

RIT may assist in the following task: Securing utilities, Unblock areas of egress in operational areas and widen openings. Task assignments should take into account the RIT shall not be fatigued at any time!

RIT Equipment

The tools and equipment for the RIT are to be placed at the RIT staging area and placed on a tarp designated for the RIT. The tools and equipment are not to be used by any members operating on the fire ground.

- A. S.C.B.A.'s and spare cylinders
- B. Radio for all members of the RIT
- C. Thermal imaging camera
- D. Stokes Basket
- E. Irons, one set minimum (Flat head axe and Halligan)
- F. Axes
- G. Pike Poles
- H. Hand lights
- I. Primary search rope
- J. S.C.B.A. with mask for rescue
- K. Power saw(s)
- L. Wire cutters
- M. Personal search rope bag

RIT Deployment

If Incident Command or a Sector Officer receives a "MAYDAY" message from a fire fighter or loses contact with a crew, the IC will immediately request a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) of all crews operating on the fire ground. If a crew or a firefighter cannot be contacted they are considered to be lost. The IC will immediately:

- A. Send the RIT to the last known location of the lost, missing, injured, trapped, or disoriented firefighter(s). Entry should be made at the quickest, closest, and safest entry point, based on the last known location.
- B. Broadcast Signal 99 to eliminate all radio traffic not associated with the RIT operation.
- C. Request another RIT be established.

Deployment key factors:

- A. Maintain radio contact with RESCUE Officer and firefighter(s) in distress.
- B. Use accountability system.
- C. Search ropes shall be used when searching.
- D. Look for evidence of building structures or locations that were described by firefighter(s) in distress.
- E. Listen for the sound of :
 - a. Pass alarms
 - b. S.C.B.A. bells (Low air alarm)
 - c. Shouts for help
 - d. Tapping sounds
- F. Enter with primary equipment (See above list).
- G. Be alert and look for equipment that may have been used by firefighter(s) and will help locate them.
- H. Do not ask the firefighter in distress to change radio channel.

When Firefighters are located:

- A. Reset pass alarm
- B. Notify Incident Command firefighters are located and give best-known position.
- C. **CHECK FIRE FIREFIGHTER FOR BREATHING**
 - a. If firefighter is not breathing remove them immediately by the most expedient means available.
 - b. If the firefighter is breathing check S.C.B.A. air supply. (Change S.C.B.A. air supply if needed.)
 - c. Attempt to drag, carry, and or extricate firefighter(s) to safe position.

The Incident Commander must consider the following:

- A. If the RIT is deployed a second team with fresh fire fighters and adequate equipment must be established on the fire ground.
- B. Command must maintain all essential fire ground operations, so the RIT can do their jobs.
- C. Heavy equipment if needed.
- D. Mutual aid with neighboring Fire Departments.
- E. EMS for RIT rescue.

ALL RIT TEAM MEMBERS MUST BE FULLY TRAINED AND PROFICIENT IN THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF RIT OPERATIONS AND TACTICS:

1. Denver Drill: restricted window rescue.
2. Tie a handcuff knot or similar knot to perform sub-level rescue.
3. Perform the charged hose line pull to remove a firefighter from a sub-level rescue
4. Nance Drill: firefighter through the floor.
5. Performing patient assessments and SCBA rescue pack changeovers.
6. Rigging of high point anchor point mechanical advantage lowering systems using extension ladders.
7. Window exit: Ladder slide, rope slide, hang, hang and drop, hose slide.
8. Firefighter drag, S.C.B.A. harness, webbing/sling.
9. Firefighter rescue: ground ladder.
10. Firefighter search: PASS device assisted, radio squelch assisted, conventional.
11. Searching with personal search rope, large area search.
12. Proficient in wearing, using, and troubleshooting SCBA in hostile environments
13. Firefighter in distress (MAYDAY).
14. To perform periodic walk around sizeups of fire building every 15-20 minutes.
15. Know how to perform and have practiced enlarged openings for removal.
16. Always have proper rescue equipment on scene in the event of a MAYDAY.

Motto of the RIT

He who sits and waits...also serves! Many a RIT have stood fast and taken up without getting a piece of the action, which does not appeal to a true **Firefighter's** action-oriented nature. We want to fight fire! However, the saving of one *Brother Firefighter's life* is worth all the training, discipline of standing fast, and frustration of no getting into action.

Standing Fast Is Serving – A Brother's Life Depends on it!