



HR/LF

OPERATIONS

POLICY # 13-0320.3

SAFETY – RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM

ISSUED 03/20/2013

Subject: Rapid Intervention Team.

Purpose: This policy outlines the department procedure for the establishment of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT).

Scope: This policy applies to all New Salem Fire Department personnel.

DEFINITIONS:

Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH)

An atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

Imminent Life-Threatening Situation

A situation in which immediate action is required to prevent the loss of life or serious injury before the team of (4) firefighters is assembled.

Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)

A team of at least four (4) firefighters on standby outside the structure to provide assistance or rapid rescue of lost, injured or trapped firefighters, if needed.

Level 1 Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE)

Department issue firefighting boots, bunker pants, coat, hood, helmet, gloves, and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

Philosophy

Franklin County Fire Departments respond to incidents that present the potential for high risk to firefighter safety. This policy identifies the requirements and operation of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT). A RIT is a team of four (4) firefighters on standby outside the structure to provide assistance or rapid rescue, if needed.

Policy

Establishment of RIT

The Incident Commander (IC) shall establish a RIT at any incident where personnel are required to operate in an IDLH atmosphere and other incidents that present a high risk. The number and location of RIT's at the scene should be flexible based on the incident's size and complexity. After evaluating the scene the IC shall provide one or more RIT's based on the risk present.



Dispatching a RIT Assignment

The Regional Dispatch Center shall dispatch a RIT assignment for any reported fire for which mutual aid resources are required. The IC of ANY fire or emergency may request a RIT assignment to be dispatched. Automatic dispatching shall be done **WHENEVER mutual aid is requested**. Franklin County Fire Chiefs may designate from whom the RIT assignment is requested OR regional dispatch center will automatically assign the RIT role.

Only the IC from the requesting community can change the assignment of a RIT designated company once dispatched.

Reporting to the scene

En-Route, potential RIT's shall monitor the fire ground radio channel(s) to begin gathering information on the incident. Upon arrival, companies designated or assigned to the RIT function will **bypass** staging and report directly to the Incident Commander. The RIT shall report to the Incident Commander in full PPE and with basic tools and equipment based on an initial size-up of the building and consistent with the RIT checklist. Equipment shall be staged on a tarp in an area most readily accessible to potential rescues.

Basic RIT Tools

- 200' Kevlar RIT Search Rope
- Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) with spare battery
- Set of Irons
- SCBA RIT Pack with spare PASS device
- Portable Radios (spare for down firefighter)
- Flashlights
- Stokes Basket

Additional Equipment

- 24' Ground Ladder
- Specialized rescue equipment as needed (i.e. power saws hydraulic tools webbing etc.)
- Identify and deploy a dedicated hose line (with separate water supply if possible)

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The RIT Officer will meet face-to-face with the Incident Commander to receive a briefing on the incident. The briefing should include the following information:

- What is the Incident Action Plan (IAP) (offensive or defensive)
- Significant events that have occurred
- Location and identification of interior crews
- How long crews have been operating in SCBA
- Other resources responding

Scene Size Up

The RIT and or RIT Sector Leader is expected to perform an initial and on-going size up. RIT size up should be based on firefighter survival, on what may cause firefighters to be trapped, lost or become missing inside the structure, and how RIT can facilitate their escape or rescue.

Structure size up should include:

- Complete 360 degree walk around when possible
- Identifying hazards that will block or slow firefighter building evacuation
- Building construction, size, and occupancy
- The placement of windows and doors
- **Securing** of overhead doors in the **up position**
- The placement of high security devices such as burglar bars, etc. removal to afford other means of egress
- Fire ground tactics being used



RIT Activation

RIT shall be activated at any time a firefighter(s) is reported lost, trapped, injured or unaccounted for. The RIT shall deploy from the known or suspected last location of the firefighter(s) in distress with appropriate tools and equipment for the situation. The IC shall initiate actions consistent with **SOP Lost/Trapped Firefighter Command Actions**.

- The RIT will be assigned a radio designation (**i.e. RIT 1, RIT 2**)

Primary Tasks

The RIT shall be responsible for the following primary tasks:

- Scene size up
- Assemble minimum equipment at primary entry point
- Monitor radio and maintain contact with IC for quick response
- Assess where firefighters are working in structure and special tasks assigned
- If situation dictates, open or cause to be opened any exit that is locked, blocked or non-existent

The RIT may complete additional activities providing it supports their primary tasks. These tasks shall not include situations requiring direct entry into the IDLH environment or impacting the RIT officer's ability to focus on the status of interior operations. Task assignment shall take into account that the RIT should not be fatigued at any time.

Additional Tasks

The RIT may be charged with the following tasks but not limited to:

- Throwing Ground Ladders
- Removal of grates or other obstructions that would hamper egress thru windows and doors
- Forcible entry to improve egress

It is imperative that RIT Leader and or RIT Sector Leader have solid face to face communications with the Incident Commander to develop CLEAR and concise expectations for exterior utilization of the RIT assignment

By the order of: _____

Chief, NSFD

Date:

References:

Resources:

Franklin County Fire Chiefs Association - Rapid Intervention Team Guideline