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## RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM OPERATIONS

A Rapid Intervention Team, hereby known as RIT, is established at incidents where Immediate Life and Death Hazards (IDLH) exist. The primary purpose of the RIT is to be readily available to initiate and affect a rescue of a downed, trapped, lost, disoriented, or an otherwise distressed firefighter.

### A. GENERAL:

- 1) It will be the duty of the RIT Officer to ensure adequate staffing levels are obtained consisting of a minimum of four RIT Trained members prior to responding on a known RIT Response.
- 2) If conditions shall warrant, empty seating positions may be filled by non-RIT members with precedence based on experience and training levels.
- 3) Only Interior Qualified members shall Don SCBA and enter a structure.
- 4) Upon arrival of the RIT, a staging area will need to be established. The following considerations should be given when establishing the RIT staging area:
  - a. The staging area should offer a view of two (2) sides of the incident, preferably where most fireground activities are occurring.
  - b. The RIT staging should be separate from fireground staging.
  - c. RIT staging should be located near the command post. If unable to do so, the officer will remain near the OIC.
  - d. All RIT members in staging will be required to wear full personal protective equipment, SCBA, portable radio and flashlight.
- 5) It will be the duty of the RIT Officer to report to the OIC with the passport after gathering the necessary equipment and to obtain a briefing and size-up report. The RIT Officer shall gather as much information as possible and relay it to other RIT members.
- 6) Dependent upon building size and construction, the RIT officer may ask the OIC for additional companies to augment the availability of ladders on the fireground.
- 7) The RIT Officer may ask the OIC to assign a second RIT for incidents that occur in commercial buildings, or for incidents where excessive number of firefighters may be operating.
- 8) The RIT should perform a complete 360-degree walk around of the incident. The walk around should allow team members to obtain the following information or meet the following objectives:
  - a. Observe/Note fire and building conditions
  - b. Egress Points – note all egress points. Forcible entry can be accomplished at this time to provide for secondary egress points, including exterior basement doors and windows protected by steel bars/grates. All entry points should be cleared of obstructions.
  - c. Observe/Note where all initial companies are operating.
  - d. Note initial ladder placement
  - e. Utility Control – any obvious utilities can be controlled during this size up.
  - f. Note any special hazards
  - g. Give final report to IC upon completion of size up. Share same information with other RIT team members.
- 9) Continually monitor fire and building conditions, noting rapid changes.

- 10) RIT Officer will monitor the fireground frequency, listening for any reported MAYDAY. All other team members will use a secondary fire ground frequency for any RIT communications. All RIT members should listen for any activated PASS device on the fireground.
- 11) All RIT members shall frequently communicate operations status/progress to the RIT Officer.
- 12) All RIT communications with the OIC shall be sole responsibility of the RIT Officer.
- 13) LADDER PLACEMENT:  
The RIT should ensure that ladders are placed to all levels where firefighters are operating. Ladders should be placed on all sides of the structure in the "Rescue Position".
- 14) Immediately upon arrival on the fireground the RIT will obtain a Scott PAK Trackers from the on- scene apparatus, if applicable (Example: Engine 15 or Engine 53). These Trackers will be turned to the "on position" and be monitored. Upon the activation of a PASS Alarm, the Pak Tracker can be utilized to assist the RIT in locating the troubled firefighter.
- 15) Once the RIT is in staging, the team should remain intact until it's terminated by the OIC. It is recommended that this not occur until life safety hazards have been eliminated or the incident is completely terminated.

## **B. EQUIPMENT:**

The following equipment is highly recommended to be removed and placed in the RIT Staging Area:

- 1) Attic Ladder
- 2) Breakaway Stokes Basket
- 3) Scott RIT Air-Pack
- 4) Rope Bags (1-100ft, 1-150ft) with hardware
- 5) Search Line Rope – 200ft
- 6) Bolt Cutters
- 7) Iron Set
- 8) Multi-Purpose Saws (Chain Saw & Partner K-12 Saw)
- 9) Pick-Head Axe
- 10) Short Pike Pole
- 11) Tarp
- 12) Thermal Imaging Camera
- 13) Charged 1¾" hoseline should be readily available

## **C. RIDING ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 1) DRIVER/OPERATOR/CHAUFFER:
  - a. Safely drives and positions apparatus on the fireground
  - b. Dons SCBA from Highside Compartment
  - c. Dons flashlight from Engineers Compartment
  - a. Assists with stokes basket assembly, packing with all necessary equipment and transport to the RIT staging area
- 2) OFFICER:
  - a. Establishes & Maintains crew accountability with use of accountability board & passport system
  - b. Dons SCBA
  - c. Dons flashlight from Doghouse
  - d. Gathers 4-Gas Meter
  - e. Removes attic ladder from Engine and places on stokes basket

- f. Assists with stokes basket assembly, packing of all necessary equipment and transport to the RIT staging area
- 3) SEATING POSITION A:
- a. Dons SCBA immediately
  - b. Dons flashlight
  - c. Properly sets & places wheel chocks upon apparatus coming to a complete stop
  - d. Briefly starts Chain saw and Partner Saw and places both in the Stokes Basket once cutting edge has come to a complete stop
  - e. Assists with stokes basket assembly, packing with all necessary equipment and transport to the RIT staging area
- 4) SEATING POSITION B:
- a. Dons SCBA immediately
  - b. Dons flashlight
  - c. Gathers Thermal Imaging Camera
  - d. Responsible for initiating stokes basket assembly, packing of all necessary equipment and transport to the RIT staging area
- 5) SEATING POSITION C:
- a. Dons SCBA immediately
  - b. Dons flashlight
  - c. Gathers Extension Ladder and immediately begins placement
  - d. Responsible for laddering as many sides of the structure as possible, placing all ladders in the "Rescue Position". Utilization of ladders from other on-scene apparatus will be necessary
  - e. Will report to the staging area at the completion of ladder placement assignment
- 6) SEATING POSITION D:
- a. Dons SCBA immediately
  - b. Dons flashlight
  - c. Gathers Extension Ladder and immediately begins placement
  - d. Responsible for laddering as many sides of the structure as possible, placing all ladders in the "Rescue Position". Utilization of ladders from other on-scene apparatus will be necessary