

REGIONAL STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Rapid Intervention Teams

#: 101.05

REV: 01/2016

SCOPE:

This procedure provides a basic outline of the operations involving the Initial Rapid Intervention Team (IRIT) and Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) on the fire ground.

PURPOSE:

This procedure will define the response, tasks, and organization of the Initial Rapid Intervention Teams and Rapid Intervention Team. The RIT function, whether in the form of On-Deck or formal RIT, should be established anytime firefighters are on air inside a structure, or anytime Command deems it necessary.

SAFETY:

Much of what we do is geared toward protecting the public. A Rapid Intervention Team is set in place for the sole purpose of rescuing and protecting our own should firefighters require assistance. Such a crew should be experienced to handle stressful situations, such as a downed or lost firefighter.

POLICY:

Initial Rapid Intervention Team (IRIT)

Definition: Temporary two-person RIT assigned during the initial onset of an incident to allow teams to enter an incident determined to be Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH), or a potentially IDLH atmosphere.

One primary IRIT member should be solely dedicated to tracking interior personnel. Their function is to account for location of interior crews and initiate a firefighter rescue. This position requires an attack line, radio, PPE, SCBA, and RIT bag.

The secondary IRIT member is permitted to take on other roles, such as driver/operator or Forward IC. This position requires PPE, radio, and SCBA nearby to be donned as soon as possible.

In the absence of the standard exceptions below, IRIT shall be established anytime personnel are operating inside an IDLH environment.

Standard Exceptions to the IRIT Requirement at Structure Fires

1. When there is a reported or suspected life hazard where immediate action could prevent the loss of life.
2. When the fire is in an incipient stage that could be controlled by a portable fire extinguisher, without the use of PPE or SCBA.

Deployment

The IC should replace the IRIT with an On-Deck Company or RIT as soon as feasibly possible.

Command has the following options for use of RIT:

1. Assign the a company to On-Deck, the default function of which is firefighter rescue/RIT
2. Formally assign a company to RIT

Tactical Reserve: Upon deploying RIT for a firefighter rescue, the RIT should be immediately replaced with an additional company in either the On-Deck or RIT capacity.

RIT Considerations & Functions

1. Monitor tactical radio channel en-route and on scene
2. Review pre-plan of structure if applicable
3. Consider critical fire ground factors
4. Consider air management (elapsed time)
5. Consider firefighter fatigue
6. Consider the point of entry for crew/member in trouble
7. Consider the last known location of crew/member in trouble
8. Consider your water supply/hose line selection (speed, mobility, and length)
9. Assign individual tasks to crew members (camera, air, tools, taglines, etc)

10. Provide timely reports (CAN) to Incident Commander
11. Consider relay rescue (call additional resources early)
12. Consider alternative exit points
13. Consider carry v. drag techniques (obstruction, heat, visibility)