# *RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM (RIT)*

## I. PURPOSE

a. The sole purpose of a rapid intervention team (RIT) is to locate and rescue trapped or missing firefighters. It has no other purpose and must not get involved with basic fire fighting procedures.

b. The RIT shall be used at all structure fires and any other incident the Incident Commander deems it necessary.

## II. PERSONNEL

a. Minimum of a five member crew. If the response is less than five members notify the Incident Commander, there may be members at the scene available to fill the missing firefighters spots.

**b.** When a mutual aid request for a RIT occurs the officer in charge of the team will determine who rides. **Major consideration should be given to experience not seniority. No Probationary Firefighters shall respond on any mutual aid request for RIT unless authorized by a responding Chief Officer.**

c. A Chief officer should respond on a mutual aid request for a RIT to be placed in charge of any rescue effort.

## III. TOOLS AND ASSIGNMENTS

a. The RIT will be divided into two teams, outside team and inside team. This will insure a two-sided approach to any rescue effort. The inside team will consist of an officer, extinguisher position, and a forcible entry position. The outside team will consist of a roof position, outside vent position and a MPO position.

b. All firefighters must have Full Protective Clothing, SCBA, PASS, and Light.

c. When a unit is designated as the RIT, they should immediately report to the IC with the normal compliment of tools and the following additional equipment.

1. Thermal imaging camera
2. Search rope
3. Stokes basket
4. Extra SCBA (Possibly from host department)
5. Power saw
6. Any other equipment which may be necessary
7. Designated RIT portable radio

The RIT should operate on a separate frequency when deployed due to overwhelming radio traffic

## IV. OPERATION AND FUNCTION

*Team Placement*

- The team officer should report to the IC and have all additional member stand by within verbal contact distance.
- The RIT officer should verify that the IC knows of the team's presence.

*Incident Size Up*

- While the RIT is standing by, the team should be aware of the following items (Size Up):
  (1) Location and number of windows and exits
  (2) Construction type (truss, balloon, etc.)
  (3) Fire location, fire extension and exposures
  (4) Location of placed and available aerial, tower, and portable ladders
  (5) Consider placing additional portable ladders on exposure (1) one of fire building
  (6) Monitor radio traffic for changing conditions and messages from firefighter in distress

Deployment

- Before the RIT is activated into service, the following should be determined to save valuable time:
  (1) Number, name(s), and department of firefighter(s) missing or trapped
  (2) Function of distressed firefighter(s)
  (3) Last known location of firefighter(s)
  (4) Do distressed firefighter(s) have a portable radio
- At time of activation, a chief officer shall be placed in charge of the rescue effort in order to maintain control and prevent freelancing.
- The RIT officer shall assign each firefighter a specific task as dictated by the sudden hazardous event.
- The position of the RIT must be adapted to the type of building to which it is functioning and the team's manpower.

*Replacement of RIT*

- If the RIT is utilized for an event, the IC must immediately replace it with available manpower or mutual aid.
- If on a rare occasion the IC uses the RIT for firefighting purposes, it must be immediately replaced with a mutual aid RIT.

## V. Miscellaneous.

1. When the RIT is operating on a mutual aid:
    - The RIT officer should report to the Incident Commander with all members' ID tags.
    - Size-up should include determining what type of SCBA is being used.
2. The RIT should operate on a separate frequency when deployed due to overwhelming radio traffic.
3. A chief officer should be in charge of the rescue effort in order to maintain control and prevent freelancing. The officer in charge of the Rapid Intervention Team's rescue will be operating as Special Command and be identified on the radio as "**RESCUE**".
    - Rapid Intervention Team members will refer to their positions on the radio as follows:
        - **Inside Team**:
            - Rescue Officer
            - Rescue Can
            - Rescue Irons
        - **Outside Team**:
            - Rescue Roof
            - Rescue OV
            - Rescue Chauffeur
4. When the RIT is put to use for the rescue of a downed or missing firefighter, a chief officer should be placed in charge to coordinate all rescue efforts. If no chief officer is available, the IC should give the next highest ranking officer this position. The IC should not assume responsibilities for any rescue effort, for he/she must remain focused on the overall safe conclusion of the entire incident.

## II. Completion

1. The RIT will stand down when the IC has declared the situation under control.