

Halifax Fire Department

December 26, 2007

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

Rapid Intervention Team

22.01 PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to establish guidelines for the response, tasks and organization of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT), communication practices for operations, which includes common terminology, the order model and required communications.

22.02 OBJECTIVE

The objective of RIT is to have a fully equipped rescue team onsite, in a ready state, to immediately react and respond to rescue firefighters.

RIT will be established at all Second Alarm Fires or at the discretion of the Incident Commander (IC) at any incident he/she deems necessary.

22.03 PROCEDURE

At all Second Alarm Fires or at the order of the IC a RIT will be established, the composition and structure of the RIT should be flexible based on the size of the incident and the complexity of operations. The IC shall evaluate the situation and the risks to operating teams, and shall provide a Rapid Intervention Team(s) commensurate with the needs of the situation.

1. A minimum of one (1) company will be required.
2. The IC shall designate that company(s) as RIT.
3. The IC shall brief the RIT Officer/Senior member on the radio operations channel, status and location of all assigned companies.
4. Upon deployment of RIT, the IC shall transmit an additional alarm.
5. If the RIT Company is used for other tactical assignments, the RIT must be replaced with another RIT crew.

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22.04 INITIAL RIT TASKS

1. The RIT Officer/Senior member shall obtain a detailed briefing from the IC on the status and location of all assigned companies.
2. The RIT company shall stay together, assume a ready state, in full PPE including SCBA and stage in an area that maximizes their effectiveness for deployment.
3. The RIT Officer/Senior member shall size up the structure; access points and means of egress.
4. The RIT Officer/Senior member shall brief the RIT Company on the access points, means of egress, status and location of assigned companies.
5. The RIT Officer/Senior member shall monitor the assigned operations radio channel at all times. RIT may be assigned an operations channel of its own, prior to or upon deployment.
6. The RIT Company shall assemble necessary equipment at the RIT staging area.
7. The RIT Company must remain uncommitted until deployed, reassigned or released.
8. The RIT Company may assist the Ladder Company with ground ladder placement to establish alternate means of egress and/or assist the Engine Company with advancing/straightening hose lines outside of the structure.

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22.05 DEPLOYMENT / OPERATIONS

Once a “May Day” or other information is transmitted that a firefighter is injured, lost, trapped or unaccounted for;

1. The IC shall request Emergency Radio Traffic and that radio talk be kept at a minimum.
2. The IC shall make an attempt to confirm the “May Day”.
3. The IC will notify the dispatcher(s) that there has been a MAY DAY declared and to keep radio traffic to a minimum.
4. The IC shall transmit a roll call of all personnel working at the incident.
5. The IC will deploy the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) to last reported location of the firefighter transmitting the May Day and notify the dispatcher(s) that the RIT has been deployed.
6. The Rapid Intervention Team ***(RIT) shall never self deploy.***
7. The IC will request an additional alarm assignment and designate a second RIT.
8. The RIT Company will use any and all resources available to find and remove the firefighter(s) transmitting the May Day.
9. The RIT Company will work in teams of two, with two entry personnel and two at the entrance prepared to retrieve equipment or assist with extrication.
10. In the event of locating a firefighter in need of assistance the RIT shall transmit to the IC the **L**ocation, **I**dentification, **P**roblem and any further resource(s) needed to conduct the rescue.
11. In the event the FF in need of assistance cannot be removed immediately and the RIT has to exit, the RIT shall provide a full SCBA, radio and clearly mark the location with lights and ropes.
12. All other companies shall continue with their initial assignment unless ordered by the IC to assist the RIT in the rescue.
13. The IC will assign an ALS ambulance to the distressed firefighter(s) and the RIT and request a second ALS ambulance to the scene.

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22.06 RIT EQUIPMENT

- Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC).
- Forcible Entry Tools (Irons, Sledge Hammer)
- RIT Bag with SCBA and spare bottle & mask
- Rope (Big Block System & Utility)
- Handlights
- Portable Radios

EQUIPMENT in STAGING for RIT use ONLY

- Power Saws (K-12, Chainsaw, Reciprocating Saw)
- Cutters (Bolt, Wire)
- Ground Ladder (capable of reaching highest means of egress)
- Salvage Cover
- Hoseline (appropriate length & size for incident)
- PPV and/or Smoke Ejector
- EMS Kit (Defib, O2 etc.)
- Two Short Pike Poles
- Extrication Equipment
 - Backboard or Stokes
 - SKED
 - Jaws/Spreaders/Cutters/Ram
 - Porta Power
 - Air Bag Kit
 - Cribbing

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22.07 RIT COMPANY CHECKLIST

- Report to IC
- Received Briefing from IC
- Confirm Operations Radio Channel/RIT Channel and Test
- Transmit over Ops Channel - ex: “Halifax Engine 2 is 3rd Ave RIT”
- Brief RIT Company Personnel
- All RIT Company Personnel in full PPE with SCBA
- RIT Company Officer/Member in Charge **Size-up** the Incident;
 - Construction
 - Fire Conditions
 - Access points
 - Means of egress
 - Status and location of assigned companies
- Initial Equipment Assembled
- All other equipment in staging and readily available for RIT
- Monitor fireground operations