

## Rapid Intervention Team

**PURPOSE:** Firefighters and other emergency responders are exposed to the highest occupational risk of injury while operating at the scene of emergency incidents. This policy establishes the procedures for a Rapid Intervention Team (R.I.T.) within the framework of the Incident Management System.

**DEFINITION:** A Rapid Intervention Team is composed of four firefighters (*it should be noted that the Engineer will also function as a member of the RIT Team*) who may be called upon to quickly rescue or otherwise intervene and return to safety trapped or injured firefighters operating at the scene of an emergency.

The R.I.T. establishes a means of quickly and effectively assisting members suddenly threatened by a dangerous situation at an incident. The R.I.T. provides a means for the Incident Commander to initiate an immediate rescue effort.

**PROCEDURE:** Incident Command should establish a R.I.T. whenever Fire Department personnel are required to operate under hazardous conditions or in an Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmosphere.

The composition and structure of the R.I.T. should be flexible based on the size of the incident and the complexity of operations. The Incident Commander shall evaluate the situation and the risks to operating teams, and shall provide one or more intervention teams (RIT's) commensurate with the needs of the situation.

In the early stages of an incident, the R.I.T. shall be either:

- On scene personnel assigned to Rescue 1 and dedicated as R.I.T.
- On scene personnel performing other functions but ready to redeploy to perform R.I.T. functions.

As the incident expands in size or complexity, the R.I.T.(s) shall be on scene personnel dedicated solely to that function. The Rescue Company will normally be assigned to the R.I.T. function, but another company may be substituted. Additional

Intervention teams (Rescue Companies) will be called as prescribed by the T.E.A.M.S program

Companies designated as R.I.T. must park their apparatus so as not to interfere with fire ground operations. The R.I.T. will bypass staging

If used for other tactical assignments, the R.I.T. must be replaced with another crew. i.e. Should the Rescue Engine arrive and Initiate fire fighting operations then the second in engine company shall perform the functions of the Rapid intervention team.

If the need for rescue is diminished, the R.I.T. may be assigned to other tasks.

**Guide:**

In-order for a successful RIT team operation the following guide Following check sheet shall be completed. This check sheet will be laminated and placed next to the officer's seat in all Engines.

### ***Arrival***

- Face to Face with IC
- Passports to IC

### ***Size-Up***

- 360° of the building
- Occupancy
- Entry and egress locations
- Potential danger of high security doors, barred windows, building modifications

### ***Tactics***

- Offensive, Marginal, Defensive
- Location of interior crews
- Fire ground time v. progress
- Check tactical worksheet
- Check accountability system

### ***Other Operations***

- Check with Safety/compare information
- Potential collapse and collapse area
- Consider need for additional Rapid Intervention Teams
- Note location of EMS units
- Review egress routes and appropriate laddering to upper floors
- Confirm laddering to fire floor and floor above fire

### ***Equipment***

- Tarp for Tool Staging
- Portable Radio(s)
- Rescue Rope (100')
- Utility Rope (100')
- Flashlights
- Thermal Imaging Camera
- (1) RIT SCBA
- Halligan/Flat head
- Bolt Cutters
- Pike Poles
- Pick Head Axe
- Saws (K12 Saw & Chain Saw)