**Subject: Rapid Intervention Teams**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this standard operating guideline is to align fire departments in Jefferson County Missouri as to the formation, use and operation of a Rapid Intervention Team when Firefighters are operating in an IDLH atmosphere.

**Scope**

This standard operating guideline shall serve as a template for all Fire Departments/District in Jefferson County as to the operation of a Rapid Intervention Team

**Guideline**

Incident Commanders will be responsible for performing a scene risk assessment prior to implementing tactics and strategy for incident stabilization. Tactical decisions will be made based on their evaluation of the event, the needs compared to the resources, and the expected incident outcome. On scene operations, shall be limited to those actions that can be safely performed by the personnel on the scene. The incident commander shall base decisions and actions on their experience, professional judgment and training.

The District Personnel Accountability System shall be utilized in accordance with the District policy. Personnel Accountability Reports shall be conducted in accordance with the policy.

**RIT Establishment**

1. The establishment of a rapid intervention team shall be made at all incidents involving a prolonged hazard or with crews working in a IDLH. Examples include situations involving working fires, gas leaks, and special operations.
2. The RIT shall be established as soon as possible in the early stages of an Incident. Many departments/districts use the On-Deck Team as the initial RIT team until enough manpower is established for a dedicated RIT.
3. Rapid intervention crews or "RIT. Teams" shall initially be comprised of a minimum of 2 personnel assigned to the team
4. If necessary additional units may be summoned to the scene to accomplish further objectives. Rapid intervention shall take place at any report of a missing or injured firefighter.
5. The RIT Team shall assemble themselves in full gear and breathing apparatus with a RIT response bag to an area designated by the incident commander.
6. The following additional equipment should be made accessible; medical equipment, stokes basket, spare SCBA and bottle, forcible entry tools, cutting tools, rope bags, and lighting equipment.
7. If accessible, the RIT Team should perform a quick 360-degree size-up of the hazard area with special attention being given to access and or exit areas.

1. Once the RIT size-up is completed, the RIT shall report to the designated staging area and stand-by. All members of the RIT Team shall monitor fire ground communications to remain aware of conditions or potential problems.
2. The Incident Commander shall have a separate radio for the specific goal of monitoring 7FIRE84D. This channel serves as an emergency channel that is off the 800 Digital System that crews operating in the IDLH zone may switch to in the event the Digital Ops Channels are not properly working.

**RIT Deployment**

1. Upon activation of any portable radio emergency button, "MAYDAY" distress call, uncontrolled P.A.S.S., or other notification of need for assistance, the incident commander shall deploy the RIT. Upon this need for rapid intervention, an "emergency traffic only" transmission should be declared and all radio traffic cleared until further advised. In addition, the following information should be attained prior to commencing rapid intervention operations:
   1. Who has the problem
   2. Where is the problem
   3. What is needed to solve the problem
2. The IC shall also attempt to obtain the air supply of the downed firefighter
3. The fire ground Safety Officer or an officer assigned to the supervise the RIT operations shall oversee the operations performed by the RIT.
4. If necessary RIT rescue communications may be switched to another channel to allow for separate fire ground communication. The switching of radio channels is at the discretion of the Incident Commander.
5. Upon deployment, the RIT. shall notify command of the specific entrance being used in entering the hazard area and any further resource needs to complete the required task.
6. Upon deployment of the on-scene RIT, the incident commander shall immediately assign a secondary (backup) team to stand-by at the pre-existing staging area. This crew should preferably be a non-fatigued crew.
7. The Incident Commander shall consider striking an additional alarm
8. The first in ambulance shall be ready to treat the firefighters who are part of the mayday. The Incident Commander shall consider dispatching additional ambulances to the scene.
9. Location of Firefighter Upon location of the down or trapped firefighter, the RIT. shall perform the following:
   1. Locate and shut off the downed firefighter(s) P.A.S.S. device if activating.
   2. Ascertain the air supply left in the SCBA and arrange for continuing air supply.
   3. Notify command of the firefighter(s) specific location, surrounding conditions, air supply
   4. status, and type of rescue.
   5. Perform a secondary survey by sweeping the downed firefighter(s) body with hands to
   6. determine possible entanglement or entrapment. Should these conditions exist, notify
   7. command immediately.
   8. A determination should be made as to the type of intervention needing to be performed.
   9. A "clean" or "dirty" rescue shall then be advised to command. Clean rescues involve careful manipulation of the firefighter for maximum safety. Examples would include broken bones, neck, and back injuries. Clean rescues shall only take place when surrounding hazards are controlled. Dirty rescues involve rapid extrication of personnel due to surrounding circumstances or firefighter condition. Examples would include imminent explosion, heavy fire conditions, or the need for immediate medical attention. These conditions make rapid extrication necessary.

**RIT Termination**

1. Upon removal of the distressed individual, a personal accountability report (PAR) shall be conducted and all operations commenced. At the discretion of the incident commander, the RIT can be terminated when it appears that control of the situation has been achieved. Although, care should be taken to provide the safest possible working conditions for crews continuing operations.
2. Department/District Chief’s Should conditions warrant, C.I.S.D. may be considered in operations involving aid to co-workers

**The On-Deck Option**

The On-Deck Option is to provide for firefighter rescue when operating at a fire that is short staffed. It should be noted that when the appropriate number of firefighters arrive to staff a full RIT, it should be done.

Upon the arrival of subsequent apparatus and crews the I.C. will ensure that a crew is immediately put On Deck. Minimum staffing for an On-Deck Crew is 2 personnel. The On-Deck positions will be filled prior to any other fire ground operation if possible. The initial On Deck crew will bring the necessary RIT equipment to the On-Deck staging area and the equipment will remain there for subsequent On Deck crews for the duration of the incident. If an interior attack is in progress or the initial personnel are in an IDLH zone, the second in company will pull a backup line and assume the On-Deck position. On Deck is defined as a forward staging position located just outside the immediate hazard zone, safely distanced from the entrance of a tactical position/division entrance. On-Deck crews will be supervised either by the division officer, their company officer, or the IC and they will remain On Deck until assigned a tactical position. The most likely assignments for On-Deck companies will be serving as the rapid intervention crew. If there is more than one entry point into an IDLH zone, then an On-Deck crew will be assigned to each of the entry points. The On-Deck crews will follow the RIT portion of this SOG in the event they are activated for a firefighter rescue. If the On-Deck crew is moved to a tactical position to relieve an interior crew, the On-Deck team will be immediately replaced with firefighters from personnel staging.

On Deck is designed to provide for initial RIT operations until enough manpower arrives on the scene. Once enough manpower has arrived, I.C. will make every effort to establish a dedicated RIT.

It should be noted that several Jefferson County Departments/District use the on-deck team as their RIT for the duration of the incident. If a team is sent to the on-deck position, they should be made aware to if they are serving as the RIT or if there is a dedicated RIT.

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