

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines  
**Fireground Operations**

## **Fireground Operations, SOG 3.22**

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### **RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM/CREW**

#### **Intent and Purpose**

To address the minimum requirements and guidelines for the Rapid Intervention Team/Crew (RIT/RIC). To establish guidelines for Fire Department personnel when functioning as a member of RIT/RIC according to the N.F.P.A 1500 Standard.

The RIT/RIC is a vital part of fire ground operations and emergency incident. The RIT/RIC is put in place to assist Firefighter(s) who become lost, trapped, disoriented, down due to an injury, or otherwise in need of emergency assistance.

#### **Definitions**

- 1) Immediate Danger to Life and Health (IDLH) Atmosphere - The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) defines IDLH atmosphere for interior structure fires to be “an advanced fire that has spread inside of the building where high temperatures, heat, and smoke” are present.
- 2) Working Fire - A situation where (1) there is a fire, and (2) in the Company Commanders opinion the situation will require the use of more than his immediate company to extinguish the fire, or (3) there is an IDLH atmosphere present.
- 3) Rapid Intervention Team/Crew (RIT/RIC) - A specifically designated Rescue Team or Crew at the scene of emergency incidents (beyond the initial stage of the operation) designed to provide personnel for the rescue of Fire Department members operating at emergency incident if the need arises.
- 4) Heavy Rescue Capability – A fire and rescue response unit staffed and equipped to perform structural collapse rescue, (preferably at the NFPA 1670 Operations Level). This unit should be capable of cutting, breaching, and lifting light-frame or reinforced masonry building components and/or building contents such as furniture or appliances.
- 5) Officer of Appropriate Level – Command officers identified by the individual jurisdictions that are qualified to fill specific command positions. (Command Response SOG)

Note: The remainder of this Guideline will use RIT as the terminology for Rapid Intervention Team / Crew. It is important to remember some Departments may use Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) or Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) as their terminology. You may even hear some Departments call them Firefighter Assist and Search Team (FAST).

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**Scope**

The Incident Commander will establish a RIT at any working structure fire or any special operation incident where Firefighters are subject to immediate danger of injury in the event or other sudden event (i.e. Confined space, Haz-Mat, Trench Rescue, etc.). The size and number of RIT(s) will be flexible based on the type, size, and complexity of the incident. The Incident Commander will provide one (1) or more RIT(s) based on the needs of the incident.

**Guidelines**

**RIT Level I: Standard First Alarm Working Fire Assignment.**

During suppression operations, if not already specified in box assignments on “Working Fire”, it shall be the responsibility of the Incident Commander to establish a RIT as soon as resources have been committed. The Incident Commander will utilize one of the Companies arriving on the incident grounds, if there was not a specific Company dispatched as the RIT. If there are insufficient members and apparatus for this, the Incident Commander will call for an additional Company to handle this assignment.

The RIT will report to and be given their orders by the Incident Commander or his designee. In the event of larger scale operations the RIT may report to the Division Officer assigned to that area.

The **RIT** should be comprised of a **minimum of three (3) Firefighters** {Officer/Leader and two (2) Firefighters} or more. It is optional, but encouraged that at least one (1) member is a Firefighter/Paramedic (preferred) or Firefighter/EMT-B and that each member has a minimum of one (1) year experience as an **Interior Structure Firefighter**. Each member of a RIT falls under the Command of the RIT Officer.

The RIT Officer will be the only member reporting to the Incident Commander or Division Officer (if assigned) upon arrival. If they were assigned as the RIT on Dispatch he should inform the Incident Commander of this, so that they are not given any assignment at the scene other to stand-by prepared to assist firefighters in distress. The Incident Commander has the authority to override this RIT assignment, based on a command judgment and evaluation. The Incident Commander will immediately assign another RIT to replace them. The Incident Commander will assign the RIT to “stand fast”. While standing fast, in a position of readiness, the RIT will assemble tools, determine the locations of aerial and portable ladders, specialized power tools, and EMS location (see also RIT Assignments).

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The RIT Officer and/or Team Leader will remain in visual and/or verbal contact with the Incident Commander, his designee, or Division Officer at all times during the Incident unless deployed. If the RIT Officer/Team Leader must leave the area to do a 360 degree of the building (size-up), he will inform the Incident Commander, his designee, or Division Officer prior to doing so. The RIT Officer/Team Leader will assign another member to be in charge and handle necessary tasks (i.e. assemble tools, place ladders, etc.).

It is recommended that Tools for the RIT be placed on a tarp. **The Tools are for the RIT only.** This should be stressed to other members and Mutual Aid Companies prior to Incidents.

It is also recommended that the Incident Commander have Companies already on the fireground place ladders for Crews already operating on the interior. This practice should be utilized when activities are on the second floor or greater. If not already done the RIT can raise ladders as long as it doesn't jeopardize their assignment. Ladders should be raised at least to two (2) sides. Interior Crews should be notified of the placement of ladders.

Note: RIT Officer will be used for RIT Officer and/or Team Leader terminology the remainder of this Guideline.

The RIT Officer will hold onto the RIT Passport until deployed. Once deployed he will give the Passport to the Incident Commander or Division Officer (if assigned) and the Passport will be kept separate from other crews Passports. The RIT will listen to Fire ground communications to stay familiar with the Incident progress.

One Channel (frequency) may be designated for the RIT. If utilized this Channel is to be separate from all other Fire Ground Channels (frequencies). The RIT will have a separate radio to monitor this Channel and a radio to monitor the Fire Ground Channel.

RIT Level II: RIT Task Force:

The RIT Level II RIT Task Force Consists of (1) Engine Company, (1) Ladder Company / Engine Company equipped to perform truck company work, (1) Rescue company or a unit with heavy rescue capabilities, (1) Command Officer of Appropriate Level, and (1) ALS Unit. These units are in addition to the units assigned to the initial alarm or greater alarms.

The need to a RIT Level II Task Force response is based on the incident commander's judgment of the incident conditions. **The purpose of the RIT Level II Task Force is to have an enhanced rescue capability available to the incident commander during significant and/or difficult fire ground incidents, prior to a lost-trapped event occurring.** For example, deteriorating conditions, large commercial building fires or other complex fire ground situations may warrant the request for this resource.

When the RIT Task Force Alarm is dispatched, these units will arrive on the

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scene and augment the capabilities of the initial RIT Level-I. The resulting RIT resources are to be referred to as the RIT Group.

**RIT Level III: Collapse Rescue Task Force**

The RIT Level III Collapse Rescue Task Force consists of at least two rescue companies or units with collapse rescue capabilities, a response unit with shoring capabilities, and support resources to include additional rescue tools, technical search equipment, and additional collapse rescue trained staffing.

Each jurisdiction should identify which units are capable of these tasks.

Incident commanders should consider requesting a greater alarm if a building collapse occurs, in order to maintain the fire attack and initiate immediate and prolonged rescue operations.

Common terminology for Firefighter(s) in distress should be “MAYDAY” followed by your location and report if possible.

After the announcement of the distressed Firefighter(s) all Fire ground Officers/Crew Leaders are to conduct an Accountability Check of the members in their crew. Only report members missing to Command immediately (i.e. E-51 to Command, Firefighter Jones is missing on the second floor, E-51 searching). *Do not* tie up the frequency with reports of all members accounted for unless asked by Command (i.e. E-51 to Command, we have PAR).

In the event that a Firefighter(s) becomes lost, disoriented, injured, or trapped, the Division Officer or Incident Commander will be notified immediately (MAYDAY). The RIT should not take it upon itself to respond to the call for help or deploy until the Incident Commander orders it. However, as the second set of “emergency ears” it has a responsibility to notify the Incident Commander or Division Officer (if assigned) that someone is calling for help and that it is ready to deploy to the call.

Once it has been established that there is a “MAYDAY” and it has been determined that **a Firefighter(s) is in distress** (located by an interior crew(s)). The Incident Commander or Division Officer (if assigned) may deploy the RIT into the **known area of the Firefighter(s)** to assist or take over rescue. If the distressed Firefighter(s) is not located quickly by interior crew(s), RIT will be deployed to the **last known location**. The search shall expand from that location in the most expeditious manner.

Note: Care should be taken not to deploy the RIT to soon.

The Incident Commander will then order the next alarm for additional resources. These resources are to be utilized as support for the RIT on location. Another RIT will be assembled on location and/or RIT level elevated. This RIT maybe deployed at the discretion of the Incident Commander for the following:

- 1) No progress has been made by the original RIT.

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- 2) To enhance the rescue effort.
- 3) Larger scale incidents.

Note: This RIT may come from Staging or additional Alarm Companies.

The Incident Commander will advise Dispatch that there is a Firefighter(s) in distress (“MAYDAY”) on the Incident grounds. The Incident Commander should request a Medic to the scene and a helicopter put on standby. Once this transmission has been received, Dispatch will report the “MAYDAY” over Dispatch Frequencies (Channel 1and/or Channel 2) being used at the Incident, and state “all Companies standby with radio traffic unless you have an Emergency” (i.e. “MAYDAY”, Allen Center Road Command has a “MAYDAY”, all Companies standby with radio traffic unless you have an Emergency). This will be repeated by Dispatch.

The Incident Commander or designee will request progress reports from the RIT Officer (RIT Progress Report) every ten (10) minutes once deployed. Dispatch will request a Par every ten (10) minutes. This is to give the Incident Commander an assessment of the RIT(s) progress and if needed accountability. It is recommended that a Chief Officer, other than the Incident Commander, handle the RIT operations. This will enable the Incident Commander to maintain focused on the original Incident and Accountability.

In the event that the RIT is making poor progress, it is recommended that the Incident Commander or designee deploy the next RIT. However, the Incident Commander must take the whole Incident situation into consideration (i.e. fire conditions and building conditions) and decide if the risks out way the benefits. He may decide that the risk of trying to save one, two, or more is to great.

When the RIT has completed its assignment after being deployed and the distressed Firefighter(s) has been delivered to the appropriate level of care, the RIT(s) are to report back to the Incident Commander or Division Officer (if assigned) for Accountability.

RIT members are to report to Rehab on the Fire ground after (1) hour, or usage of two (2) SCBA bottles. The RIT Officer will notify Incident Commander or Division Officer (if assigned) and be released by another RIT before reporting to Rehab. The RIT Officer is to be aware of his member’s conditions and climate condition(s) at all times. He should use the above as a guideline and his members may need Rehab prior to this guideline.

**RECON:**

There may be occasions when the RIT may locate a trapped or downed firefighter, and conditions may not allow rapid extrication from the hazard area. This scenario will call for a RIT RECON TEAM. The purpose of this Recon Team is to protect the trapped

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firefighter in place until the fire can be controlled or more resources are gathered to complete the rescue.

A search line should be deployed directly to the location of the trapped/downed firefighter. This will allow other crews a rapid way in and out of the hazard area.

A separate air supply system should be brought to supplement/replace the breathing apparatus of the downed firefighter. In situations where a lengthy entrapment is anticipated, consideration should be given to bringing in supplied air breathing apparatus for a backup air supply.

Once the firefighter has been located, a hose line should be brought to the location and positioned to protect the area. Use caution when utilizing large volumes of water. Flooding may occur thus hampering rescue efforts and placing the trapped firefighter in further danger. Additional equipment such as sump pumps and fire blankets may be utilized to protect the firefighter when necessary (a fire blanket with a fog spray will greatly reduce the heat the firefighter is exposed too).

**Restrictions**

The RIT will not be used to provide relief for Operational units until the Incident has been declared *Situation Contained* and the risk to firefighters who may still be operating on the interior has been assessed. (non IDLH present) The assessment process will include the Incident Commander, Operations Officer (if assigned), and Safety Officer (if assigned). It is recommended that the Division Officers (if assigned) and RIT Officer be part of assessment process also. The operations must be deemed safe by the above for the RIT to be released from its duties.

If the Incident Commander determines that the immediate use of the RIT in a capacity other than that of the RIT is an absolute necessity, it may be utilized. ***This should be done as a LAST RESORT.*** A second RIT must be placed into service immediately.

**Tools and Equipment for RIT**

The tools and equipment for the RIT are to be placed in an *easily accessible* location close to the Command Post or Division Post, but not to block exit/entrance of it. These tools should be placed on a tarp designated for the RIT. The tools and equipment are not to be used by any other members on the Fire Ground.

- 1) Full turnout gear including SCBA, PASS devices and hoods (each RIT member).
- 2) Two (2) portable radios. One assigned to the RIT Officer and one to an additional crewmember.
- 3) One (1) set of Irons minimum (Flathead axe and Halligan).
- 4) Pike Pole.
- 5) A flashlight for each member (Litebox preferred).
- 6) Power saw, preferably a K-12 or equivalent with appropriate blade for the job.
- 7) Extra SCBA's w/masks. (Consider crew sizes).
- 8) Separate Hose line ready (same size or larger and 200 GPM nozzle)

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- recommended).
- 9) Spare SCBA cylinder for each member.
  - 10) Personal Rescue Rope.
  - 11) Drag Strap (each member).
  - 12) Tag Line Kit = 1-150' mainline rope with 25' markings in rope bag. The ends of the rope to have caribiners attached to hook to fixed object prior to entry if needed.
  - 13) Rescue/Tag Line Kit = 3-20' sections of rope or webbing w/caribiners attached to each end and in rope bag (for crew to work off main line or rescue efforts). Minimum of 4 door chocks.
  - 14) Tarp (10 x 10 and marked RIT)

Other recommended Tools

- 1) Thermal Imaging Camera.
- 2) Device to mark doors (i.e. door markers, street crayons, etc.).
- 3) Stokes Basket.
- 4) Heavy Rescue equipment (especially in highly possible collapse situations or industrial settings).

Each member should be assigned tools prior to being deployed at the incident. The RIT Officer is responsible for the assignments.

Note: The RIT may need tools and equipment not listed above and should take the scene situation into consideration when assembling their tools. Some tools and equipment may not be necessary (i.e. Tag Line Kit for a Trailer Fire) or available. The RIT Officer must decide which tools and equipment may be needed and are available. Remember tools must be easily assessable to the RIT only. An Engine may be moved and placed into operation, if not assigned as a RIT Engine. It will do the RIT no good to be deployed and find out their saw or SCBA's are moved a block away, or if a firefighter has removed them because he was told to get a tool or piece of equipment, and the RIT's (yours) was just there.

**RIT Assignment**

Once the RIT acquires the necessary tools its duties should be reviewed. These duties include monitoring radio traffic (especially the Fire ground Channel), Checking the Accountability Board for crews operating (how long, and where) surveying the scene from an "escape standpoint" (360), forecasting danger, checking ladder and aerial ladder placement(s), and advising the Incident Commander or Safety Officer of issues such as burglar bars that need to be removed or deadbolts that need to be "taken". If needed and it does not jeopardize your assignment place ladders to at least two (2) sides, and notify Incident Command so interior crews are told. Also at night set up portable lighting using the first due Engine or Ladder. The RIT Officer should assign each member a specific task.

Example:

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- 1) RIT Officer - In charge. His task is to ensure that operations are being conducted as safely and with as much coordination as possible. He acts as the team eyes and ears. He should not be a "Hands-on" person.
- 2) RIT Member 1(Firefighter/Paramedic, Firefighter/EMT-B) - concern with approaching and assessing the downed firefighter(s).
- 3) RIT Member 2 - checks and ensures that the firefighter(s) have a good air supply, if not secure an air supply.
- 4) RIT Member 3 (four Firefighter RIT) - is a "utility firefighter" (tools) and remains with RIT Officer. He will clear the paths of obstructions, may take windows, may set up a lowering system, or may simply help drag the firefighter(s).

**Reporting**

In the event that the RIT is deployed for any reason to effect a rescue, a written report will be completed by the Incident Commander, RIT Officer, Division Officer (if assigned), Operations Officer (if assigned), and Safety Officer (if assigned). This report will be forwarded to the Incident Commander and/or Fire Chief within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the Incident. This information is for the education of those involved, and other interested parties for educational purposes. These reports will be attached to a copy of the report covering the incident from start to finish. Each RIT Officer will be responsible for their own written incident report. This report may be separate from an investigation report. The report should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1) Date, Time, Address, and Incident Number of the Incident.
- 2) Name of Firefighter(s) in distress and their location on Fire ground.
- 3) Conditions encountered prior to deployment.
- 4) Conditions during rescue.
- 5) Actions taken to perform the rescue.
- 6) Approximate time involved performing the rescue.
- 7) Number of crews to perform the rescue.
- 8) Building design/area layout.
- 9) RIT number and names of members.
- 10) Any injuries sustained by RIT members.
- 11) Any acts of Bravery/Heroism.

**Training**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Union County Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT) is to provide a minimum crew of four operationally trained personnel to establish on the fire ground for

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the primary purpose of rapid rescue in any incidents involving injured, trapped, lost, missing or disoriented firefighters.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

The training section of SOG 3.22 Rapid Intervention Teams, the standard is accepted by the Union County Fire Chiefs, but the implementation of the standard will not be effective until January 1, 2009. This is intended to allow for the training requirements to be met.

**OBJECTIVE**

To operate as a team in the safest manner possible to rescue, remove and resolve the firefighter's hazardous situation.

**SCOPE**

This guideline applies to any situation where a firefighter or group of firefighters find themselves in an IDLH environment (such as collapse, structure fires, major accidents, airplane crashes, hazardous materials situations, etc.) while operating on the fire ground. It is not limited to structure fires alone.

**RESPONSIBILITY**

The Incident Commander is responsible for establishing the RIT during the first alarm assignment at an emergency incident, where the potential for firefighters to be lost or trapped exists. The RIT shall remain on alert status until the Incident Commander decides that the complexity of the operation no longer presents a risk to the operating teams. It is also recommended that if the RIT team is deployed that additional RIT teams be staged.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

RIT firefighters shall be certified by the Department Chief as:

- Possess advanced firefighting skills, Ohio Certified Level II Firefighter
- Must be competent in performing aggressive primary and secondary search and rescue
- Be physically fit
- Capable of proficiently completing all aspects of RIT Operations including, but not limited to the tasks listed below.

**ALL RIT TEAM MEMBERS MUST BE FULLY TRAINED AND PROFICIENT IN THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF RIT OPERATION AND TACTICS**

- Denver Drill: Restricted window rescue
- Tie and handcuff knot or similar knot to perform sub-level rescue
- Columbus Drill: Utilizing a charged hoseline to remove a firefighter from a sub-level rescue
- Nance Drill: Firefighter through a floor
- Performing a patient assessment and SCBA rescue pack changeovers

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- Rigging of a high point anchor mechanical advantage lowering system using extension ladders
- Window Exit: Ladder slide, free arm repel, hose slide, utilizing a munter hitch to repel
- Firefighter drag, SCBA harness, webbing/sling
- Firefighter rescue with ground ladders
- Firefighter searches
- Searching with personal search rope and large area search
- Proficient in wearing, utilizing and troubleshooting SCBA in hostile environments
- LUNAR familiarity
- To perform periodic walk around size-ups of fire buildings every 15-20 minutes
- Know how to perform and have practiced enlarged openings for removal of victims

#### IDENTIFICATION

Individuals that meet the RIT qualifications by the Department Chief shall have at least one orange reflective tetrahedron, or similar sticker, placed on the left and right side of their helmet as identification.

#### GUIDELINES

**ASSIGNMENT:** The RIT shall be permitted to be flexible based on Fire Department special conditions, type of incident, size and complexity of operations. The Incident Commander and Safety Officer shall evaluate the situation and the risks to operating crews and shall provide one or more RIT companies depending on the needs/requirements of the incident.

**STAGING:** The RIT shall assemble near, but not directly at the command post, so that visual contact with the Incident Commander can be maintained during the incident. The RIT Officer shall report directly to the Incident Commander to obtain periodic situational report noting:

- A. How many firefighters are operating within the structure/hazardous area
- B. How long firefighters have been working “on air”
- C. What type or types of SCBA are being utilized and what size bottle
- D. Operations/Incident radio frequencies

The RIT shall stage optimally to visualize two sides of the structure/hazardous area or incident. Larger incidents may require more than one RIT at opposite sides.

#### RIT RESPONSIBILITIES

The RIT will be responsible for firefighter rescue

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The RIT will perform a size-up of the incident. In 15-20 minute intervals, a 360 degree walk around of the incident shall be performed by at least two RIT team members. In addition to noting changing fire conditions, they should note:

- A. Entrances/egresses of working units
- B. Building construction
- C. Occupancy
- D. Building Size
- E. Fire Location
- F. Extent and probable extension of fire
- G. Progress of current operational tactics
- H. Need for additional ladder placement (assist in placing if necessary)
- I. Need for additional egress points
- J. Monitor Radio Traffic and maintain constant contact with the Incident Commander
- K. Listen for May-Day Calls

While the size-up is being performed, the other team members not performing size-up will set-up an equipment staging area with the minimum equipment listed.

The RIT shall “Stand Fast” intact as a unit ready to take immediate action as directed by the Incident Commander. Avoid involvement in other fireground duties. The team shall maintain a state of constant readiness to react rapidly to changing fireground fire conditions.

RIT may assist in tasks such as unblocking areas of egress, deploying ground ladders, but the task assignments should take into account the rule that RIT should not be fatigued at any time.

#### RIT DEPLOYMENT

If the Incident Commander or a Sector Officer receives a “Mayday” transmission from a firefighter or loses contact with a crew, the Incident Commander will immediately request a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) of all crew operating on the fireground. If a crew or a firefighter cannot be contacted, they are considered lost. The Incident Commander will immediately:

- A. If the disoriented firefighter(s) can be reached via radio have them transmit a “LUNAR”

- **Location-** what area, floor, sector, etc.
- **Unit-**unit victim/s are assigned to
- **Name/s-** Number and Name of downed firefighter/s
- **Action-** needed to rescue. (Trapped, lost, or missing)
- **Reason/Resources-** what is wrong, what is needed (low air, lost, trapped, medical, etc.)?

(Air supply, egress.)

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- B. Deploy the RIT to the last known location of the lost, missing, injured trapped or disoriented firefighter(s). Entry should be made at the quickest, closest, and safest entry point, based on the last known location.
- C. Identify the frequency that all other work groups and divisions will be transferred to for the duration of the RIT Rescue Operation. **The Only personnel permitted to transmit on the downed firefighter's original frequency shall be the RIT, the downed firefighter and the Incident Commander.**
- D. Request another RIT be established
- E. Dispatch EMS, if not already on scene

**DEPLOYMENT KEY FACTORS**

- 1. Maintain radio contact with Rescue Officer and firefighter(s) in distress
- 2. Use of a functional accountability system
- 3. Search ropes shall be used when searching
- 4. Look for evidence of building structures or locations that were described by firefighter(s) in distress
- 5. Listen for the sound of:
  - a. Pass Alarms
  - b. Low Air Alarm on SCBA
  - c. Shouts for help
  - d. Tapping Sounds
- 6. Be alert and look for equipment that may have been used by firefighter(s) and will help locate them
- 7. **DO NOT** ask the firefighter in distress to change the radio channel.

**WHEN FIREFIGHTERS ARE LOCATED:**

- 1. Notify the Incident Commander using "LUNAR" that the downed or missing firefighter has been located
- 2. Check the Firefighter for breathing
- 3. If the firefighter is not breathing remove them immediately by the most expedient means available
- 4. If the firefighter is breathing check SCBA air supply. (Change SCBA bottle supply or attach to RIT pack, if necessary and available)
- 5. Attempt to drag, carry and /or extricate the firefighter(s) to a safe position

**THE INCIDENT COMMANDER MUST CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:**

- 1. When the RIT has been deployed at least a second team with fresh firefighters and adequate equipment must be established on the fire ground.
  - 2. Command must maintain all essential fire ground operations, so the RIT can do their jobs.
  - 3. At least one additional box alarm should be automatically dispatched
  - 4. Additional EMS units should be considered
  - 5. Heavy equipment may be required
  - 6. Declare beginnings and ending periods for rescue versus recovery operations

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7. Command may designate an Operations Officer to control ongoing firefighting while they or their designate controls the RIT operation

Motto of the RIT

He who sits and waits... also serves!!! Many of RIT have stood fast, and taken up without getting a piece of the action, and this generally does not appeal to the firefighter's action-oriented nature. We want to Fight Fire. However, The *saving of one Firefighter's life* is worth all the training, standing fast, and frustration of not getting into action. Standing fast is serving.

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**RIT Checklist**

- 1. Reports to Incident Command with Accountability Tags.
- 2. Scene Size-up.
  - Entry and egress points (360)
  - Radios on proper Channels.
  - Fire/Hot Zone Location.
  - Fire/Rescue Operations Locations.
  - Hazards in and around area.
  - Note available Equipment Resources (i. e. extra SCBA's, Tools, Saws, etc.).
  - EMS Location(s).
  - Note placement of ground ladders/Aerial devices. (if not up, get to 2 sides).
  - Interior crews aware of ladder(s).
  - Make RIT crew assignments.
- 3. Check following equipment before entry.
  - Full Turnout Gear w/SCBA, PASS devices, and hoods.
  - Two (2) Portable Radio's.
  - Irons (Flat Head Axe and Halligan Tool).
  - Pike Pole.
  - Flashlights for each member.
  - Power saw (preferably K-12 w/appropriate blade).
  - Extra SCBA's w/masks (consider crew sizes).
  - Separate Hose line ready (same size or larger and 250 GPM nozzle recommended).
  - Spare SCBA cylinder for each member.
  - Tag Line Kit (1-150 rope and marked every 25' w/caribiners attached in rope bag).
  - Rescue/Tag Line Kit (3-20' rope or webbing w/caribiners attached and minimum of 4 door chocks in rope bag).
  - Tarp (10x10 and marked RIT)

**Other recommended Tools**

- Thermal Imaging Camera.
- Device to mark doors.
- Stokes Basket
- Heavy Rescue Equipment / Specialized Equipment (per size-up)
- 4. Stay together and are ready (BE READY).
- 5. Do not leave Incident Command and/or Division until released or assigned.
- 6. Turn in Passport prior to entry once deployed.

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**Command Checklist for Lost/Trapped firefighter situations.**

- 1. Initiate a PAR check to confirm accountability of all personnel to determine total amount of missing firefighters.
- 2. Have the dispatch center initiate an emergency fireground announcement that a mayday event has occurred. Dispatch center will make appropriate notifications per runcards and their guidelines.
- 3. Redirect the incident action plan and incident priorities to a high priority search & rescue operation. Development of a rescue action plan is critical.
- 4. Have dispatch center and/or command post monitor all radio channels.
- 5. Assign the RIT Team or Group to search and rescue operations in the known area or last known area where firefighters need assistance. Assign relief crews to the RIT Group.
- 6. Request additional appropriate resources to meet the needs of the event:
  - Command Response. (Safety, Operations, EMS, Logistics, Planning, etc.)
  - Assign Command Staff. (Staff-Aide, Radio Operator, PIO.)
  - Specialized Resources. Technical Rescue Capabilities.
  - EMS assets.
- 7. Initiate and/or maintain fire attack positions and reinforce with extra alarm companies as needed.
- 8. Expand the command organization as necessary.
- 9. Withdraw and control unassigned resources from the search and rescue area.
- 10. Maintain strong supervision in all work areas. Control and restrict all unauthorized entries into the structure or search-rescue area.
- 11. Maintain an ALS capability for immediate treatment of the trapped firefighter.
- Additional Command Considerations.
  - Initiate/Expand EMS Group to prepare for triage, treatment, and transportation needs.
  - Assign resources to form a safety division/group to control risk taking & document actions and progress.
  - Assess the ability to increase egress points from the building or area without spreading the fire.
  - Assign a PIO early to control release of information to the media.
  - Consider the need for a staff officer and/or chaplain for notification to family members.

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