

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines
Fireground Operations

Fireground Operations, SOG 3.22

RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM

1. Intent and Purpose

To establish guidelines for a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT). The RIT 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.

2. 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 (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.

3. RIT: Standard Assignment.

- a. The Incident Commander (IC) will establish a RIT as soon as resources are available. The IC 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.
- b. 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.
- c. The RIT should be comprised of a **minimum of three (3) Firefighters** {Officer and two (2) Firefighters} or more. Each member of a RIT falls under the Command of the RIT Officer.
- d. 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, and be guided by his direction. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. Tools for the RIT should be placed on a tarp. **The Tools are for the RIT only.**
- g. Companies already on the fireground should place ladders for Crews already

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operating on the interior. If not already done the RIT can raise ladders as long as it doesn't jeopardize their assignment. Ladders should be raised on at least two (2) sides. Interior Crews should be notified of the placement of ladders.

- h. After the announcement of a 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.. Do not tie up the frequency with reports of all members accounted for unless asked by Command.
- i. 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 self-deploy until the Incident Commander orders it. However, as the second set of "emergency ears", RIT 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.
- j. 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.**
- k. If the disoriented firefighter(s) can be reached via radio have them transmit a "LUNAR"
 - **L**ocation- what area, floor, etc.
 - **U**nit-unit victim/s are assigned to
 - **N**ame/s- Number and Name of downed firefighter/s
 - **A**ction- needed to rescue. (Trapped, lost, or missing)
 - **R**eason/**R**esources- what is wrong, what is needed (low air, lost, trapped, medical, etc.)?

When firefighter(s) are located immediately notify the IC using "LUNAR"

- l. 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.
- m. Upon deployment of the RIT, the Incident Commander will order the next alarm for additional resources. Another RIT will be assembled on location. This RIT will be deployed at the discretion of the Incident Commander.
- n. The Incident Commander will advise Dispatch that there is a Firefighter(s) in distress ("MAYDAY"). Once this transmission has been received, Dispatch will report the "MAYDAY" over the Dispatch and Operational Frequencies being used at the Incident, and state "all Companies standby with radio traffic unless

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you have an Emergency”.

4. Restrictions

- a. 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 the assessment process also. The operations must be deemed safe by the above for the RIT to be released from its duties.
- b. 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.

5. Tools and Equipment for RIT

- a. The tools and equipment for the RIT are to be placed in an easily accessible location close to the Command Post or Division Post. These tools should be placed on a tarp designated for the RIT. RIT tools and equipment are not to be used by any other members on the Fire Ground.
- b. Each member should be assigned tools prior to being deployed at the incident. The RIT Officer is responsible for the assignments.
- c. The RIT Officer must decide which tools and equipment may be needed and are available. Remember tools must be easily accessible to the RIT only.

6. Training

a. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Union County Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT) is to provide a minimum crew of three (3) operationally trained personnel for the primary purpose of rapid rescue in any incident involving injured, trapped, lost, missing or disoriented firefighters.

b. OBJECTIVE

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

c. RECOGNIZED SPECIAL TRAINING FOR RIT OPERATIONS

RIT firefighters shall be certified by the Department Chief as:

- ✓ One Team member certified as a Firefighter/EMT-B.
- ✓ Each member should have a minimum of one (1) year experience as an Interior Structure Firefighter
- ✓ Must be competent in performing aggressive primary and

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secondary search and rescue.

- ✓ Capable of proficiently completing all aspects of RIT Operations including, but not limited to the tasks listed below:
 - 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
 - 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

d. IDENTIFICATION

Individuals that have received the RIT ops special training 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.