

DALTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guideline

S.O.G.: FO-13

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Fire Chief Signature

DATE

Title: Rapid Intervention Teams/Crews (RIT/RIC)

Reference: NFPA 1407, Standard for Training Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews, 2015 ed.

NFPA 1500, Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program, 2013 ed.

NFPA 1710, Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments, 2016 ed.

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4), Personal Protective Equipment; Respiratory Protection

Scope: All personnel

Purpose: Operations at hazardous incidents require a backup team to be in place at the incident site. This team's responsibility is to be available to rescue any responders in need of aid at the incident should that need arise.

Procedure:

The Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) shall be assigned as soon as possible on any incident where personnel are operating in a hazardous area. If the incident covers a large geographic area, more than one RIT may be required.

The initial stages of an incident shall encompass the tasks undertaken by the first arriving companies with only one entry team assigned or operating in the hazardous area.

During these initial stages, the rapid intervention crew(s) shall be either:

(a) On-scene members designated and dedicated as rapid intervention crew(s).

(b) On-scene personnel performing command or safety functions but ready to re-deploy to perform rapid intervention crew functions.

The initial RIT shall consist of a minimum of two fully equipped members with the necessary rescue tools. These tools may include forcible entry tools, search ropes, thermal imaging camera, cribbing, spare air packs, saws, etc. and should be tailored to occupancy and construction type. The RIT will report directly to the Incident Commander.

When a second entry team is assigned or operating in the hazardous area, the incident shall no longer be considered in the initial stages and at least one company of a minimum of three personnel shall be assigned as RIT.

The RIT Leader shall perform a 360-degree size-up of the structure to identify the structural layout, operating areas, potential hazards, and possible means of access and egress. Additional 360s shall be conducted throughout the incident to monitor for changing conditions.

The RIT shall monitor tactical radio channels to maintain contact with command and have an accurate understanding of operations and changing conditions. The RIT may perform exterior support functions (e.g., secure utilities, throw ladders for egress, etc.) but must remain prepared to deploy and perform RIT duties.

The IC shall evaluate the situation and the risks to operating crews and shall provide one or more RITs based on the needs of the situation (e.g., large commercial occupancy, health care facility, etc.). Nothing in this guideline is meant to preclude firefighters from performing rescue activities before an entire team has been assembled if there are fewer than three team members available and an individual inside the burning structure must be rescued immediately.

Whenever personnel are operating in positions or performing functions (including special operations) that would subject them to immediate danger, at least one rapid intervention crew shall be standing by with equipment to provide assistance or rescue.

Termination of RIT shall be at the discretion of the Incident Commander.