



# Northeast Fire Department Association

Operations

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## ***Tactical Guidelines: Rapid Intervention Team***

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**NEFDA President**

### I. Overview

This policy is intended to provide an outline for the formation and operation of a Rapid Intervention Team or teams. This will give both team members, as well as command a basis for the operation and organization of the team.

### II. Terminology

1. *IDLH Atmosphere*- Immediate Danger to Life and Health. An atmosphere which is dangerous to firefighters.
2. *IRIT*- Initial Rapid Intervention Team. This is utilized early in the incident when only one crew is working in the IDLH environment. The team shall consist of at least two personnel with proper PPE and SCBA donned.
3. *RIT*- Rapid Intervention Team (Formal). A formal RIT will be established as soon as possible. RIT should consist of at least three personnel with proper PPE and SCBA donned. Team size should be determined by considering structure size and construction. Team size and numbers should also reflect the number of personnel on the scene. The RIT should assemble proper tools.
4. *MAYDAY*- Notification given to indicate a rescue is needed.
5. *Personnel Accountability Report (PAR)* - Roll call of assigned personnel. For a Company Officer or Team Leader, a PAR is a confirmation that all members assigned to their unit are accounted. For the Division/Group Commander, a PAR is an accounting for all crews assigned to their command.
6. *RIT Bag* - Bag containing air supply, mask, regulator, and large area search rope. The air supply consists of a SCBA bottle (45 minute minimum) with a Universal RIT Connection (URC / UAC) and low pressure connections for Scott and MSA SCBA.
7. *TIC* - Thermal Imaging Camera
8. *Large Area Search Rope* - The large area search rope is normally located in one end of the RIT Bag. It consists of 200' of Kevlar rope. Every 20' there is a metal ring. After that ring is a number of knots. The number of knots represents that number of feet you have traveled on the rope. Each knot is equivalent to 20'. Direction of travel can be determined by the knots as well. If you have knots then ring, you are on your way out (RING OUT). If you have a ring and then knots you are on your way into the structure.
9. *PPE - Personal Protective Equipment* - That equipment designed to protect you personally.

## **Rapid Intervention Team**

### **III. Objective**

The objective of RIT is to have a fully equipped rescue team, onsite, in a ready state, to immediately react and respond to the rescue of firefighters.

A RIT should be established anytime firefighters are operating in an IDLH atmosphere.

### **IV. Policy**

It is the policy of the Fire Department to establish and support RIT at any incident in which an IDLH atmosphere will be entered.

- A. RIT members will assume a state of readiness with appropriate PPE.
- B. RIT will initially report to the Command Post. The Incident Commander (IC) will determine the location of the team(s).
- C. RIT will consist of at least three personnel.

### **V. Command Responsibilities**

The Incident Commander is obligated to establish a RIT whenever personnel are operating in an IDLH atmosphere. RIT is not limited to this, and should be used whenever it will increase the overall safety of an incident.

- A. Command will appoint the appropriate number of personnel to RIT and support their needs.
- B. The number of RITs should expand with the incident. The number of RITs and the number of personnel on a RIT should be directly proportionate to the number of firefighters, the layout and the size of the structure.
- C. Command has the following options for use of RIT(s).
  - 1. To address visible hazards.
  - 2. To identify critical factors and apply appropriate risk/benefit analysis.
- D. When a RIT is activated, Command should consider using an alternate radio channel for suppression activities and keep the MAYDAY firefighter on the channel they called the mayday.
- E. Command should strongly consider the formation of a Rescue Division in the event of RIT activation. NEFDA TRT activation should be considered when situations could require the need of specialized equipment to support potential rescue requirements.
- F. At least one additional alarm, with an ambulance, should be immediately requested upon activation of a RIT.
- G. A PAR should be performed at RIT activation and upon completion of the RIT assignment.
- H. Additional RITs must be formed and supported upon the activation of a RIT.

### **VI. Rapid Intervention Team Responsibilities**

- A. Report to Command for briefing.
- B. Perform a walk around. Determine challenges, points of entry, potential hazards and needed tools.
- C. Report findings of walk around to Command and establish RIT staging location.

## Rapid Intervention Team

- D. Confirm that the utilities are secure.
- E. Retrieve equipment to include a RIT bag, TIC, along with scene and structure appropriate tools. A hose line must be considered to establish a defensible space when the firefighter is found. Equipment should be assembled on the RIT tarp to indicate that they are dedicated for RIT use only.
- F. Coordinate with Command if additional resources are needed.
- G. Soften the structure by removing security bars or forcing doors. Coordinate the opening of doors and windows with Command and/or Operations. (Many times doors can be forced and then closed.)
- H. Illuminate entrances and exits.
- I. Develop a search plan as well as a rescue plan.
- J. When activated the RIT should:
  - 1. Execute the search plan and communicate with Command or Rescue Division.
  - 2. Locate the crew or member. (Turn PASS device off for better communication.)
  - 3. Assess the firefighter and the environment
  - 4. Transfill air if needed
  - 5. Package firefighter for extrication (If you leave before another crew arrives, manually activate PASS.)
  - 6. Continually monitor individual RIT member air supply
  - 7. Continually update Command or Rescue Division with CAN reports.

### VII. Conclusion

Being assigned to RIT is a great responsibility. Be proactive and make RIT effective.