

4.6 Rapid Intervention Team



City of Oak Point Department of Public Safety Fire Department

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These SOPs/SOGs are based on FEMA guidelines FA-197

Purpose:

The OPDPS is at times called upon to respond to incidents that present a high risk to firefighters. This procedure identifies the requirements for and the operation of Rapid Intervention Teams (RITs).

This procedure is intended to increase the overall level of safety for fire fighters operating at emergency incidents by providing for fire fighter rescue at the outset of an event before a team enters an unknown atmosphere, potentially or actually IDLH (immediately dangerous to life and health). It integrates with procedures that are already in effect, such as the requirement for a back-up rescue team for hazardous materials entry. The objective of a RIT is to have a fully equipped rescue team on-site and in a ready state to immediately react and respond to rescue injured or trapped fire fighters or civilians. Following this procedure will insure compliance with the OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard, 29 CFR 1910.134, sometimes referred to as the 2-In/2-Out rule.

Policy:

This procedure shall be implemented at all “working” structural fires beyond the incipient stage and other incidents where fire department members are subject to hazards that would be immediately dangerous to life and/or health in the event of an equipment failure, sudden change of conditions, or mishap.

Interior Team:

An entry team consisting of a minimum of two (2) firefighters, with SCBAs, working together as a team, maintaining voice or visual contact at all times, and in radio contact with the IC, is required to initiate interior structural fire fighting operations.

Exterior Team or Initial Rapid Intervention Team (IRIT):

An IRIT is a temporary, fully equipped and trained RIT, with a minimum of two (2) firefighters, assigned at the outset of an incident to allow the interior team to enter an IDLH, potential IDLH, or unknown atmosphere.

An IRIT SHALL be on standby outside the structure to provide assistance or perform rapid rescue, if needed. Voice, visual, or radio contact is required between the interior and IRIT at all times.

One of the IRIT members must be free of all other tasks and be solely dedicated to tracking interior personnel. This function is to account for and initiate a fire fighter rescue. This accountability information must be given to the designated RIT company Officer or the Incident Commander before being reassigned. Radio, required PPE, and SCBA are required for this assignment.

While the second IRIT member may perform some other tasks, this individual must be able to abandon them without jeopardizing the safety and health of others at the scene. These tasks may include serving as incident commander, safety officer, or equipment operator. Radio, required PPE, and SCBA should be donned as soon as possible.

It shall be a priority of the Incident Commander to upgrade an IRIT to a dedicated RIT as soon as practically possible.

Standard Implementation of IRIT Two-Person Crew:

An IRIT should be used when command option Fast Attack, is utilized by the first arriving company officer.

Instruction/Procedures:

Before initiating interior fire fighting operations, a minimum of four firefighters SHALL be on the scene. They SHALL work in compliance with “2 In/2 Out” guidelines requiring a minimum of a two-person entry team and a minimum of a two-person (IRIT) on standby outside the structure.

Exceptions:

- Incipient Stage Fires
- Known Life Hazard where initial arriving personnel find a known life hazard or known rescue situation and immediate action could prevent the loss of life or a serious injury
- After completing a search of the structure or rescue of the occupants, firefighters are to withdraw from the structure until “2 In/2 Out” procedures can be implemented with arrival of additional personnel.

Rapid Intervention Team:

The second company should assume the designated RIT duties specifically designated as a back-up/rescue team, standing by to assist interior personnel.

Command may assign more than one company, if necessary. Operations of a large or more complex nature may call for multiple RIT units to stand by at different entry points. After assignment of a company to RIT, Command has the following options for use:

Assign the company RIT duties and be designated RIT Sector.

- Cancel the company en route, but only after the declaration of “fire under control” and a PAR has been satisfactorily completed.
- Assign the company to other duties, such as heat relief for working crews, overhaul duties, etc.

- If assigned a non-RIT task, another company should be requested by Command to be available for emergencies affecting firefighters

RIT Responsibilities:

- Upon assignment of RIT responsibilities, the RIT company officer should monitor the tactical radio channel and initiate a tactical worksheet noting location of operating companies.
- Upon arrival at the incident, the RIT Company officer should report to command, obtain a detailed briefing from the Incident Commander and the IRIT they are relieving on the status and location of all assigned
- The RIT officer should continue to coordinate with Command.
- While the RIT OIC is obtaining a detailed briefing from the IC and IRIT two RIT members should conduct a 360 scene survey and C.A.N. assessment and report back to the RIT OIC to assist with the R.A.P. If a fourth member is available he should start staging and making equipment ready for use.

All RIT members will assume a ready state, including full protective clothing and SCBA, except for the face piece. For other types of incidents, the protective clothing and equipment will be appropriate for the hazards.

The RIT officer and team members will closely monitor the assigned radio channel at all times to keep up with location of companies, changing conditions, important information, etc.

The team should gather, make ready, and stage a basic complement of tools and equipment. The tools and equipment should be staged and readily accessible and under control of the RIT and not taken for other duties by other companies or teams.

In some situations, protective hose lines may need to be deployed at tactical advantage points (ie. windows, doors, roof, etc.). RIT companies should assess the need for other access points to provide for egress, rescue, and ventilation. Forcible entry may be necessary. When companies are operating on floors above ground, the RIT should consider positioning ground ladders to allow for emergency egress and rescue. The RIT should consider setting up 4 sided scene lighting and entry point lighting. The RIT may also assist controlling utilities by shutting off the gas during their initial 360.

The RIT OIC may assist the IC with safety and accountability of companies on scene until another Officer is available to fill the role of safety officer. However the RIT OIC must not be so involved that it precludes him from making entry if a RIT deployment becomes necessary.

The RIT should continually size up, conduct a 360 reconnaissance and adapt the R.A.P at 15 min intervals. The RIT should take a proactive response and address safety concerns immediately to stay ahead of the rapidly changing conditions. The team must be able to react immediately to sudden emergency events at the incident site. In all cases, the RIT must have the ability to rapidly deploy.