

ROGUE VALLEY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Document:	Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) Procedure
Section & #:	Model Operational Guidelines #3.12
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Purpose

To provide a guideline for the safe and effective operation of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) prior to and after deployment that is either pre-assembled as part of an incident action plan, or assembled at time of need (see SOG #3.11).

RIT is simply defined as any combination of two or more qualified firefighters assembled for the purpose of search and rescue of fellow firefighters in distress on any all-hazard incident.

Safety

A crew of two can be used if Command has another source for the potential Rescue Group Supervisor, such as the Incident Safety Officer (ISO) or RIT Leader when more than one RIT crew is assigned. A crew of three or more is optimal to provide the option of assigning the Company Officer as the RIT Leader if needed.

RIT can perform several operations outside of the hot zone – When using SCBA they should not be on air unless they have been deployed or reassigned to an IDLH atmosphere.

RIT works at the crew or group level prior to deployment and reports to the Operations Section Chief (IC if Operations is not staffed). RIT reports to Rescue Group Sup upon deployment in a Firefighter Rescue Strategy.

Procedure

1. Upon Assignment to RIT

- The radio designation for the RIT prior to and after deployment will be “RIT.”
 - If more than one RIT are assigned, Command should consider designating one RIT leader
 - With multiple RIT’s, consider identifying them by their geographical area. “Charlie RIT”, “Division 2 RIT”, or numerical – RIT 1, 2, 3, etc...
- The RIT Leader meets with the IC (or Operations if staffed)

- Review the current operation – strategy, actions and location of crews, other available resources
- Obtain / create a preplan of the building
- Determine how the IC (or Ops) wants to organize in the event of a Mayday – i.e.: who will become the Rescue Group Supervisor
- Discuss the communication plan in the event of a Mayday
- Review the actions intended to be taken outside the hot zone (see below)
- The RIT Firefighters begin staging equipment
 - Lay out RIT Tarp where it provides access to tools but not in the way
 - Gather the following equipment, place on tarp
 - RIT Pack
 - Thermal Imaging Camera
 - Search rope
 - Forcible Entry and/or Breaching Tools
 - Additional equipment appropriate for the situation, or potential situation
 - Open the RIT pack and check air hoses and equipment – Orient to the type of SCBA's in use on that incident (Scott, MSA, Draeger, Survivair, etc.). Gather RIT packs from Mutual/Auto Aid engine companies that have crews assigned in the hot zone.

2. Actions to be taken prior to deployment

- Perform an initial RIT size-up
 - Determine potential areas for rescue.
 - Identify all safety hazards
- Make the scene operation safer (“Soften the Structure”) – **Do so only in coordination with the Operational Plan**
 - Force all exterior doors, leave closed so as not to interfere with the ventilation plan.
 - Remove all security bars from the exterior windows.
 - If a window is broken out – clean out the frame and the glass.
 - Ladder upper floors at sill – tie off at base if able
 - Shut off all utilities to the structure if able to stay out of hot zone.
 - Position additional hose lines near potential access points
- Additional considerations
 - Provide updates to the IC (or Ops) and Interior crews regarding the conditions of the fire, possible hazards and additional exit points.
 - Remain available for immediate response - The IC (or Ops) can use RIT personnel for activities such as recon, utilities, laddering, etc.
 - Closely monitor radio channels at all times for the activities and status of working companies. This should also include monitoring SFM frequency.

- Monitor crews in rehab – they can give information about the building and the conditions inside.
- Review accountability/status board at Command Post and maintain knowledge of all company locations.

3. Actions to be taken upon deployment – declaration of a MAYDAY

- Establish communications with downed firefighter on the channel declared
- Execute the pre-determined rescue plan that meets these goals:
 - Locate the Firefighter
 - Provide for air and fire protection
 - Extract the Firefighter