



KING COUNTY FIRE RESOURCE PLAN

Section 12 – RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM (RIT) PROCEDURES

Adopted 8/27/08
Updated 11/01/08

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This procedure is adopted by the King County Fire Chiefs as a county-wide standard for all fire departments operating within King County.
- 1.2 To establish guidelines that give direction as to when and how Rapid Intervention Team(s) (RIT) will be assigned and/or deployed.

2.0 REFERENCES

- 2.1 NFPA 1500 Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program
- 2.2 NFPA 1561 Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System
- 2.3 WAC 296-305 Safety Standards for Firefighters

3.0 POLICY STATEMENT

- 3.1 The Incident Commander shall give early consideration to the establishment of a Rapid Intervention Team(s) (RIT) within an emergency incident perimeter at incidents that pose a danger to responders working in and about the incident.
 - 3.1.1 The size and number of Rapid Intervention Teams assigned by the Incident Commander shall be commensurate with the needs of the incident.
 - 3.1.2 RIT members shall be fully equipped with protective clothing, protective equipment including SCBA, and any specialized rescue equipment that could be needed given the specifics of the operation under way.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

- 4.1 **RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM (RIT):** A team consisting of a minimum of two (2) fully-equipped responders who are on-site and ready for deployment to the immediate rescue of responders.
- 4.2 **TEAM LEADER:** Usually a Company Officer or member assigned or selected as the Team Leader.

5.0 PROCEDURE

- 5.1 Assignment of RIT. When incident conditions require the establishment of a RIT, the Incident Commander shall assign a company or companies to fill that role.
 - 5.1.1 The Incident Commander will determine the number of resources assigned to RIT based on incident scope, complexity or risk.
 - 5.1.2 Unless otherwise indicated the rapid intervention resources are assigned to the Incident Commander.
 - 5.1.3 The Incident Commander shall announce the establishment of RIT over the radio to create a recorded benchmark.
 - 5.1.4 When a single unit or resource is assigned as the RIT, their Unit Identifier will be used (e.g. Engine 51, Engine 42 etc.).
 - 5.1.5 When multiple units are assigned to RIT, the Incident Commander will assign a designator for the resources assigned to rapid intervention duties (i.e. Team/Unit, Group, or Branch)
- 5.2 RIT Preparation and Planning. When resources are assigned to RIT the following actions shall be accomplished in preparation for possible deployment in the event of an emergency:
 - 5.2.1 The Team Leader shall obtain a briefing from the Incident Commander and/or the Safety Officer regarding the current strategies and tactics, possible hazardous conditions, location of teams operating in the hazardous area, and the factors that may affect firefighter rescue.
 - 5.2.2 Assemble equipment commensurate with the complexity of the ongoing operation.
 - 5.2.3 Conduct the necessary reconnaissance to become familiar with the structure and begin development of a rescue plan.

- 5.2.4 Monitor the status of interior teams and their assigned tactical talk-group.
 - 5.2.4.1 When conditions warrant, the corresponding State-Ops channel should be monitored in addition to the assigned tactical talk-group.
- 5.2.5 When necessary, make recommendations to the Incident Commander for additional resources to RIT.
- 5.3 Emergency Deployment of RIT. The Incident Commander shall deploy the RIT upon learning that firefighters are trapped, missing, or in need of emergency assistance. This deployment will be conducted in accordance with the rescue plan as directed by the Incident Commander.
- 5.4 Upon deployment of RIT, the Incident Commander will:
 - 5.4.1 Ensure the availability of emergency medical resources (i.e. Medic Unit, Aid Unit or Ambulance).
 - 5.4.2 Secure a secondary tactical talk-group as required.
 - 5.4.3 Request additional alarms, resources, and personnel as required.
 - 5.4.4 Reestablish a new RIT as soon as resources are available.
- 5.5 The Incident Commander will determine the tactical talk-group utilized to communicate with the injured or trapped firefighters and conduct rescue activities.
 - 5.5.1 If the firefighter has activated their EMER button, the EMER radio talk-group would be used.
- 5.6 Once deployed, the goal of the RIT is to rapidly locate, access, stabilize, protect and extricate the lost, trapped or injured firefighters.
- 5.7 The deployed RIT(s) shall attempt to communicate critical bench marks to Incident Command, including but not limited to the following:
 - 5.7.1 Condition of compromised responder(s).
 - 5.7.2 Resources required for extrication.
 - 5.7.3 Obstacles that may hinder or delay extrication.
 - 5.7.4 Estimated time required for extrication.

6.0 RESPONSIBILITY

- 6.1 The Incident Commander shall establish and deploy Rapid Intervention Team(s) in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of this procedure.
- 6.2 Personnel assigned to a RIT shall operate in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of this procedure.

7.0 KING COUNTY CHIEFS' DIRECTIVE

- 7.1 This procedure was adopted by the King County Fire Chiefs as a standard for all fire departments within King County as a countywide standard. Other than numbering this procedure to match the local system, it shall be placed in the located department's SOG/SOP verbatim, to ensure countywide standardization. Changes to this procedure must be with the concurrence of the King County Fire Chiefs' Association.