

## RAPID INTERVENTION

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### **Purpose:**

*This procedure meets or exceeds the intent of applicable sections within Chapter 6, Emergency Operations, of NFPA 1500, Standards on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program. It also intends to meet requirements of the OSHA Respirator Protection Standard 1910.134 and OSHA 2 in/2 out Rule 308-134e.*

*The purpose of this procedure is to outline the procedures used for the rescue of personnel operating at emergency incidents if the need arises. It further outlines the procedures for members entering an IDLH atmosphere or working in an environment recognized to be unstable.*

*Personnel assigned to perform this function will be designated as the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT). The composition and structure of the RIT shall be flexible depending on the type, size and complexity of the incident. Level 1 RIT will consist of no less than two trained members.*

### **Definitions:**

#### **IDLH:** (Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health)

Oxygen level below 19.5% or above 23%.

Lower Explosive Limits in excess of 10%.

Toxins in excess of the Permissible Exposure Level.

Confined Space, collapse or any other situation recognized to be unstable and could cause injury or death.

A condition that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous condition. The interior of a structure involved in fire, beyond the incipient stage, is considered an IDLH condition.

#### **Incipient Stage Fire:**

A fire in the initial stage which can be controlled or extinguished using portable extinguishers, or small hose systems, without the need for protective clothing or a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

#### **Personal Accountability Report (PAR)**

Report given to Command or Operations that all members of the crew are accounted for.

#### **Level 1 Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)**

A team consisting of a minimum of two trained members.

#### **Level 2 Rapid Intervention Team(s): (RIT)**

At least two (2) teams each team consisting of a minimum of at least two (2) trained members per team, whose duties are to track, and rescue if needed, emergency personnel that enter a structure involved in fire beyond the incipient stage (IDLH atmosphere), or the rescue of emergency personnel who fall victim to an unstable situation (e.g. confined space, collapse) at a emergency scene (IDLH). RIT teams shall be referred to as RIT-1, RIT-2, etc.

*Standard Operating Procedures are meant only to be guidelines. Actual conditions may warrant alternative actions.*

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### **MAYDAY:**

A verbal notification that immediate action is required to rescue or assist emergency personnel operating in emergency incidents.

### **RIT Group Leader:**

When assigned, a Sector Officer whose function is the tracking of the entry teams and performs no other function but tracking and rapid intervention.

### **TIC:**

Thermal Imaging Camera

### **RIT Kit: (Rescue Equipment)**

Desirable Equipment: secured Hand Line, Portable Radio, Forcible Entry Tools, Rescue Rope, Hand Light and Thermal Imaging Camera. After conducting a size-up of the incident scene, RIT may determine the need for additional equipment not listed above (e.g. Cutting Torch, Circular Saw, Ladders, etc.). RIT Kit to have as a minimum the following equipment: SCBA cylinder, spare mask, regulator, flashlight, search rope, door chocks and wire cutters.

### **Procedure:**

1. RIT shall be implemented during the initial stages of an IDLH incident, except as noted below.
2. Multiple RITs may be established on large incidents (Level 2 RIT).
3. RITs shall be assigned to the RIT Group Leader. If a RIT Group Leader is not designated, then RIT will report directly to the Incident Commander. When designated, the RIT Group Leader will report to command.
4. RIT shall stage near the entry point to an IDLH area, along with the RIT kit.
5. After sizing-up the incident with respect to RIT considerations, RIT shall gather and/or call for any additional tools or equipment, not carried in the RIT Kit that may be needed to affect a rescue. RIT shall stage all RIT equipment in a readily accessible location.
6. When a RIT Group Leader is designated he/she is responsible for the tracking of the Entry Teams. He/She is to coordinate this activity with the Accountability Officers.
7. RIT members must maintain visual, voice or physical contact with one another at all times
8. RIT members may be utilized for other support activities at the incident scene, (provided that RIT members remain in contact as described above). However, these activities shall not, if abandoned due to rescue operations, place any personnel at additional risks. At least one (1) RIT member shall continue to monitor those persons in the IDLH condition. When an RIT Group Leader has been designated, the RIT Group Leader will monitor those persons in the IDLH condition.

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9. RIT shall announce via radio to the Incident Commander that RIT has been established.
10. Whenever possible, the initial entry team shall bring the RIT kit from their apparatus as they prepare to enter the IDLH. The RIT kit shall be placed near the point of entry. The initial apparatus operator, after pump set-up, should verify the RIT kit has been placed as described. If not, the apparatus operator shall do so. Additionally, if practical, the apparatus operator should lay out a hose line for the Rapid Intervention Team so that establishing RIT can be done expeditiously.

### Entry Team:

10. Except as modified elsewhere in this procedure, no Entry Team shall enter into an IDLH until RIT has been established. (See Exceptions to Two-in/Two-out)

### MAYDAY Procedure:

11. Anytime emergency personnel operating at an incident feel they are trapped, injured, lost, or in any other condition placing them in imminent danger and in need of rapid assistance, they shall verbally signal a MAYDAY alert. Immediately following the MAYDAY alert, those personnel shall activate their "emergency identification button" on their portable radios and activate the manual alarm on their PASS devices.
12. They shall transmit the word "MAYDAY" via radio by announcing in increments of three "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY" followed by a radio message identifying themselves along with their location. Information pertaining to the location should be as specific as possible. (**e.g. MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY, Engine 8 to Command, we are trapped in the basement on side 3**). This shall be repeated until acknowledged by either the Incident Commander/Operations Officer/Safety Officer/RIT Group Leader or Radio. If the Incident Commander does not acknowledge the MAYDAY alert, Radio shall immediately relay this information to command.
13. Command shall immediately deploy the necessary resources needed to effect rescue of personnel in the MAYDAY condition.
14. Other members operating on the scene should be aware of the "MAYDAY" situation. However, **they must continue with their assigned tasks**. The task they are currently performing may very well limit injury to the person or persons in distress as well as assist the RIT team.
15. Upon the Mayday call, a Personal Accountability Report (PAR) shall be initiated.
16. The RIT team shall notify the RIT Group Leader when the person(s) in distress have been located and the actions being taken to remove them or if additional assistance is needed.
17. When a MAYDAY situation occurs, it is imperative that general radio traffic be minimized, so that the air is clear to communicate with persons in distress and to quickly effect their rescue.

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### Exceptions to Two-in/Two-out:

18. If the initial attack personnel find a known life hazard situation where immediate action could prevent the loss of life, deviation from the two-in/two-out standard is permitted.
19. When rescue operations are initiated without a RIT in place, Command shall be notified and a RIT shall be established as promptly as crews can be assigned.

### Deployment of Rapid Intervention Team(s):

20. RIT will only be deployed upon orders from the Incident Commander/Operations Officer/Safety Officer.
21. A backup RIT shall be established whenever the initial RIT is deployed.
22. Upon the report of a lost or trapped firefighter the RIT Group Leader will immediately see that all RIT members abandon any support activities they may be involved in and concentrate their efforts on rescue.
23. Unless already known, the person in charge of the RIT shall compare information with the Accountability Officer in determining the last known location of the missing personnel.
24. RIT members shall utilize the information from their on-going scene size-up to help determine the type of rescue that they may encounter.
25. If self rescue or a quick grab and go rescue is not possible, RIT members shall use the "AWARE" (*Air, Water, A Radio, Extrication*) principle while determining the method of rescue as well as the estimated time it will take to complete the rescue.
26. When RIT is deployed, the rescue shall come under the command of the RIT Group Leader when designated, otherwise the operations officer.

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