

# Egg Harbor Fire Department and First Responders Standard Operating Guidelines

**SUBJECT: RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM**

**SOG 208**

**PURPOSE:** The objective of a RIT is to have a fully equipped rescue team on-site, in a ready state, to immediately react and respond to rescue injured or trapped firefighters or civilians. This procedure identifies the requirements and operation of Rapid Intervention Teams.

**SCOPE:** This procedure increases firefighter safety at emergency incidents by providing for firefighter rescue at the outset of an event before a team enters an unknown atmosphere, potential or actual **IDLH** (Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health) environment. It should integrate with procedures that are already in effect, such as the requirement for a "Back-Up" rescue team for hazardous materials entry. This policy shall apply to all members of the Egg Harbor Fire Department.

## **DEFINITIONS:**

**RIT** - Rapid Intervention Team

**IRIT** - Initial Rapid Intervention Team

**IDLH** - Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health: means an atmosphere 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 atmosphere.

**PAR** - Personnel Accountability Report

**MAY DAY** - A priority radio message that has absolute priority. All radio traffic must cease until the priority transmission has been given.

**SCBA** – Self Contained Breathing Apparatus: means an atmosphere-supplying respirator for which the breathing air source is designed to be carried by the user.

**PPE** – Personal Protective Equipment

**TIC** – Thermal Imaging Camera

## **REQUIRED USE OF RIT's**

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.

### **Examples of special hazards include, but are not limited to:**

Offensive Fire Operations (assumed to be IDLH) Hazardous Materials Incidents (IDLH, potential IDLH, or unknown atmosphere)

Trench Rescue

Confined Space Rescue (assumed to be IDLH)

Any other incident having significant risk

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### **IRIT (Initial RIT)**

A temporary two-person (Type II Crew) RIT team assigned, at the outset of an incident, to allow teams to enter an IDLH, potential or unknown atmosphere. The priority of Command should be to upgrade IRIT to a full RIT team as soon as practically possible. One IRIT member must be solely dedicated to tracking interior personnel. Their function is to account for location of interior teams and initiate a firefighter rescue. This position requires immediate access to the RIT equipment, (See Appendix A). The other member of the two-person IRIT is permitted to take on other support roles close to the other IRIT member. This position requires a radio with PPE and SCBA with mask ready to be donned.

### **Standard Exceptions to the IRIT Requirement at Structure Fires:**

When there is a life hazard where immediate action could prevent the loss of life.  
When the fire is in an incipient stage that could be controlled by a portable fire extinguisher.

### **RIT**

The RIT assignment shall be made by Command. The RIT Team (Type I Crew) shall consist of one (1) Fire Officer and three (3) firefighters. One Fire Officer and one additional firefighter assigned to IRIT would constitute a RIT Team. The Fire Officer will take control of the RIT equipment. The RIT Officer will constantly evaluate conditions and monitor all radio communications.

The RIT Team cannot be used to relieve another crew unless a replacement RIT team has been established. The tools and water supply needed by the RIT Team is dependent on location, conditions, extent and involvement of the incident.

### **DISPATCH AND IMPLEMENTATION**

Upon declaration of working fire, IRIT or full RIT assignments shall be made. The assigned unit will acknowledge response via radio (Unit ID responding). The unit should stage on-scene in a location to maximize their options and await instructions from Command. This apparatus should be prepared for a RIT assignment if an IRIT has not been upgraded to a full RIT on their arrival. During major operations, RIT's will normally be assigned a stand-by position near the Command Post or the rehab operation. A minimum of one crew will be required.

Command may assign more than one RIT if necessary. Operations of a large or more complex nature may call for multiple RIT units to stand-by at different entry points.

If assigned anything other than RIT duties, Command must request additional resources as a RIT unit to be available for emergencies affecting firefighters.

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En-route, potential RIT's should monitor the radio channel and note the location of operating apparatus. Upon assignment of RIT responsibilities, the RIT officer should obtain a detailed briefing from Command, or the IRIT they're relieving, on the status and location of all assigned companies.

All RIT team members will assume a ready state, including full protective clothing and SCBA. For other types of incidents, the protective clothing and equipment shall be appropriate for the hazards encountered. The RIT team officer will closely monitor the assigned radio channel at all times.

In some cases, the RIT may need to conduct a recon to maintain awareness of working companies and 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.

In some situations, protective hoselines may need to be pre-deployed. The RIT should assess the need for other access points to provide for egress, rescue, and ventilation. Forcible entry may be necessary. When crews are operating on floors above ground, the RIT should consider pre-positioning ground ladders to allow for emergency egress and rescue.

If a firefighter gets in trouble or an emergency occurs, Incident Command should immediately be contacted with a declaration of "May Day". Command will ensure that an audible signal, declaring the emergency situation, is activated. Command will announce the "May Day" and advise responding units. Whenever a RIT is deployed, it should be replaced as soon as possible to back-up the teams involved in a rescue operation.

If RIT team units are needed to respond to a sudden emergency, in which the Division Officer is incapacitated (physically or emotionally), the RIT officer will assume group responsibilities for the area in which the emergency exists. Rescue group should coordinate their activities with the involved group to maximize the rescue operation.

If not deployed as a RIT unit, Command may assign this company as a relief unit and rotate them with interior companies. RIT's can be used for any appropriate assignments after all teams are out of danger, PAR's have been obtained, and an IDLH atmosphere no longer exists.

### **RIT EQUIPMENT**

Once assigned to IRIT or RIT stand-by duties, the assigned crew must obtain the RIT equipment from the designated unit. The equipment should be checked and layed out on the orange tarp, (See Appendix A).

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## **COMMITMENT TO RESCUE OF A LOST OR TRAPPED FIREFIGHTER**

Upon a report of a lost or trapped firefighter, Command should deploy the RIT(s) to the last reported location of the lost/trapped firefighter(s). The RIT equipment must be taken. The Fire Officer of the RIT may be assigned a "Rescue Group" designation. Appropriate rescue equipment and teams must be quickly assembled and organized.

### **APPENDIX A**

#### **RIT EQUIPMENT:**

The items to be included are as follows:

- PPE
- Orange Tarp (Tool Placement)
- Portable Radios
- S.C.B.A. / face-piece (each member)
- RIT Bottle with Face Piece
- RIT Rope
- Thermo Image camera (if available)
- Hand lights
- Irons (flat head axe/Halligan tool)
- Bolt Cutter (small 12")
- Folding Knife (3-4" blade)
- Channel Lock (multi-adjustable pliers 12")
- Wire Cutter (snub nose pliers with side cutter 7-10")
- Saw, Cordless Reciprocating
- Phillips-Head Screwdrivers
- Straight-Blade Screwdrivers
- Door Straps
- Charged Hand line
- Stokes Basket (if available)

Based on a size up by the RIT officer other equipment needed may be, but not limited to, ladders, saws, spanner belt, or any additional equipment needed along with preplan of the building, if available.