



Scarborough Fire Department

Scarborough, Maine



Standard Operating Guidelines

Book:	Emergency Operations
Chapter:	Rescue Operations
Subject:	3630 - Rapid Intervention Team
Revision Date:	3/10/2009 revised 9/23/2015, 6/1/2017
Approved by:	<i>B. Michael Thurlow</i>

PURPOSE

The Scarborough Fire Department often responds to incidents that present a high risk to firefighter safety. This procedure identifies the requirements for and the operation of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT).

POLICY

A Portland mutual aid RIT will be assigned automatically to the scene at all “all hands” Desk Boxes (structure fires). A mutual aid RIT will not be automatically assigned to other types of “working incidents”. The Incident Commander may call additional apparatus to the scene to form a RIT for other “working incidents” where fire department members are subject to special hazards that would be immediately dangerous to life and/or health (IDLH). Examples of “working incidents” with special hazards include, but are not limited to:

- A. Hazardous Materials Incidents
- B. Trench Rescue
- C. Confined Space Rescue
- E. Any other incident having significant risk or involving an IDLH environment

SCOPE

This policy should integrate with procedures that are already in effect, such as the requirement for a back-up rescue team for hazardous materials entry. The objective of the RIT Company is to provide a fully equipped (including SCBA) rescue team on-site, in a state of readiness, to immediately react and respond to rescue injured or trapped firefighters or civilians.

DEFINITIONS

- A. RIT: A Rapid Intervention Team that shall be a designated by Command to be in a state of readiness to rescue an injured trapped firefighter. The goal of the team make up shall consist of at least 2 structural firefighters.

PROCEDURE

- A. Upon the upgrade to an “All Hands” on any Desk Box response, dispatch will request Portland supply RIT direct to the scene.
- B. The mutual aid RIT must meet with the IC upon arrival.
- C. The RIT shall follow their size-up protocols, gather any additional equipment they may need, and shall stage in a location that will allow them to:
 - a. Maximize their tactical options
 - b. Visualize the scene
 - c. Await instruction from Command
 - d. React immediately to sudden changes in events and have the ability to rapidly deploy.
- D. RIT companies will normally be assigned a standby position near the Command Post.
- E. RIT requires a minimum of one company. Operations of a large or more complex nature may call for multiple RIT Companies to standby at different entry points.
- F. After a RIT company has been established, Command has the following options:
 - a. Assign the company to other duties, such as relief for working crews during salvage, or overhaul operations, etc.
 - b. If assigned to anything other than RIT company duties, Command must then request an additional company to back fill the RIT company functions and continue to be available for emergencies.
- G. The RIT Company shall conduct a 360° recon to maintain awareness of the working companies.
- H. In some situations, members of the RIT may carry out appropriate tasks such as deploying protective hose lines and ground ladders, which could assist them in their primary function. Once these tasks are completed, these members must immediately return to the RIT staging area and report the status of their assignment to the RIT Leader.
- I. The RIT Leader shall remain in a ready state and assure his/her members are rapidly retrievable. The team must be able to react immediately to sudden change in events at the incident site and have the ability to rapidly deploy.
- J. Upon a report of a lost or trapped firefighter, or a “May Day”, Command shall deploy the RIT.
- K. The following outlines the minimum equipment that each RIT team must have on scene in their individual staging area:
 - a. RIT must have a minimum of a fully equipped RIT pack, stokes basket, large area search rope, SCBA’s, hand tools, a power saw, a portable radio for each team member, a flash light for each member and a TIC for the team.
 - b. Appropriate PPE for the type of incident will be commensurate with the type of hazards.
- L. Mutual aid RIT will not be automatically assigned to other types of “working incidents”. The Incident Commander may call additional apparatus to the scene for “working incidents” where fire department members are subject to special hazards that would be immediately dangerous to life and/or health (IDLH) if additional personnel are needed.
- M. If it is determined by the IC that a RIT is no longer needed, Command may assign this team other functions, but not until it is certain that all crews are out of the IDLH environment and Personal Accountability Reports (PAR) have been obtained.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. The RIT team may operate on any channel it needs to while doing size up and set up operations providing they are not interfering with any of the fire ground operations, however face to face communication is highly recommended versus tying up radio frequencies. The RIT Leader shall coordinate any radio frequency needs with the Incident Commander.
- B. If the RIT crew needs a channel to carry out EMS specific functions, EMS 1 should be used.
- C. The RIT team shall always monitor the fire ground channel for any emergency traffic and constant awareness to all companies' locations and assignments.
- D. If a firefighter calls a "Mayday" for a firefighter in need of assistance, the RIT operation shall switch to whatever channel that trapped or injured firefighter is operating on. The rest of the fire ground operations shall be moved to another channel that will be determined by the Incident Commander.

REFERENCES

- A. NFPA 1500
- B. NFPA 1561
- C. NFPA 1981