**Rapid Intervention Crews**

**Adopted** May 2019 **Updated:**

The Polk County Fire Chief’s Association has adopted a standardized procedure for Rapid Intervention Crews (RIC). The intent is to have each fire department respond in a like manner for the safety purposes of all personnel in the event of a mutual aid call.

**Definition** See the Glossary of Definitions.

It shall be the responsibility of each member to know, understand, and utilize these guidelines as they apply to any given situation. It shall further be the responsibility of Fire Officers to train subordinates in the proper application of these guidelines and to implement and enforce their use.

**Procedure**

A Rapid Intervention Company (RIC) is a fire company designated to be prepared to locate and rescue lost, trapped, or injured firefighters, or other on-scene emergency services personnel. This company may also be used to proactively prevent such a need.

Except when there is a reported or suspected life hazard that requires immediate action to prevent the loss of life, or when a fire is in an incipient stage that can be controlled by a portable fire extinguisher, a Rapid Intervention Company shall be assigned at all fires and other incidents where Fire Department members are subject to hazards that would be immediately dangerous to life or health in the event of an equipment failure, sudden change of conditions, structural collapse, disorientation, or other mishap.

The RIC shall stage on scene near the point of entry/hot zone or other area designated by Command to maximize their availability and await instruction. Command may assign more than one RIC in one or more areas at large or complex incidents.

**Command Responsibilities**

After designation of a RIC, Command may do one or more of the following:

* Assign the staging area or areas
* Assign RIC to perform a safety size-up
* Assign RIC to proactive safety measures
* Activate the RIC, if needed
* Reassign another RIC if the first crew is activated
* Assign to other duties if there is a fresh RIC to replace them
* Cancel or release the RIC if it is determined they are no longer needed

**RIC Officer Responsibilities**

* Report to Command for assignment and accountability
* Be prepared for a “May Day”, including assembling, at a minimum, the following recommended tools:
* Full PPE (SCBA, lights, personal tools, etc.)
* Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC)
* RIC KIT with spare bottle and quick connect
* Appropriate tools for the type of incident
* Closely monitor incident radio traffic
* Size up and pre-plan incident structure or area
* Make the building ready for firefighters who need to escape and for RIC deployment
* Coordinate and direct RIC operations
* Advise Command of additional resources needed

**RIC Operations**

* Gather appropriate tools for the type of incident
* Stage at the designated location
* Assist the company officer with pre-plan
* Perform fire ground safety tasks as directed
* Track and record location of working companies
* Maintain a state of readiness for rapid deployment or other assignment by Command
* Brief the replacement RIC if relieved without emergency deployment

When assigned to locate/rescue a trapped or injured firefighter:

* Develop and communicate an Incident Action Plan (focus is to reduce risks to personnel)
* Consider critical fire ground factors
* Consider air management (elapsed time)
* Consider firefighter fatigue
* Consider radio communications
* Develop and communicate a search plan
* Consider the point of entry for crew/firefighter in trouble
* Consider the last known location of crew/firefighter in trouble
* Consider your water supply/hose line selection (speed, mobility, and length)
* Assign tasks to entry crew (camera, air, tools, taglines, etc.)
* Monitor your air supply
* Provide timely reports to Command
* Develop and communicate a rescue plan
* Consider alternative exit points
* Consider carry vs. drag techniques (obstructions, heat, visibility)

**Safety Considerations**

All RIC members shall assume a ready state including full personal protective equipment (PPE) with SCBA for structure fires. For other types of incidents, the protective clothing and equipment will be appropriate for the type of hazard and may require specialty team members.

**Termination**

Termination of RIC assignment shall only be authorized by Command.