


MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM -DIVISION XII

Policy – Practices – Guidelines Manual

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Subject:	Section B	
Functional Area:	Operations	
Category:	RIT Policy	
Approved By:	Patrick Johl President	

Title: Rapid Intervention Team

Scope

This guideline is applicable to all Division XII responses.

Purpose

This Policy creates a procedure for the assignment, duties, responsibilities, and deployment of the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)

01-1 DEFINITIONS

Mayday: The recognized term for a firefighter that is missing, trapped, lost, or in distress. Radio designation: “Mayday, Mayday, Mayday” (repeated 3 times)

Mayday Response: The activation of a rapid intervention team and other pre-designated assistance for back up and support.

MABAS R.I.T. (RIT TEAM): Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Rapid Intervention Team. A team of members dedicated to the search, rescue, and treatment of Firefighters /Paramedics in distress. A Rapid Intervention Team at the MABAS Box Alarm Level consists of a minimum of: One (1) RIT Chief, one (1) truck or squad, one (1) engine or quint, and one (1) medic.

IC: Incident Commander (MABAS Incident Management System). **Radio designation:** “*Command*”

IMT: MABAS Division 12 Incident Management Team consisting of three chief officers responding as a team to assist the Incident Commander.

Personnel Accountability Report (PAR): A Roll Call procedure initiated by the Incident Commander to confirm that all members who were operating in a hazardous area are located and physically accounted for.

Rescue Chief: The Battalion Chief/Chief Officer assigned to an exterior position to communicate with the RIT Chief and ensure the RIT operation has the equipment and manpower to complete its mission. This position is the Safety Chief prior to the mayday being called. **Radio Designation:** Rescue

RIT Chief: The Battalion Chief/Chief Officer assigned to an interior position to be in command of the RIT operation at the scene of an emergency incident. **Radio Designation:** RIT

RIT Company: A Fire Company assigned as the RIT.

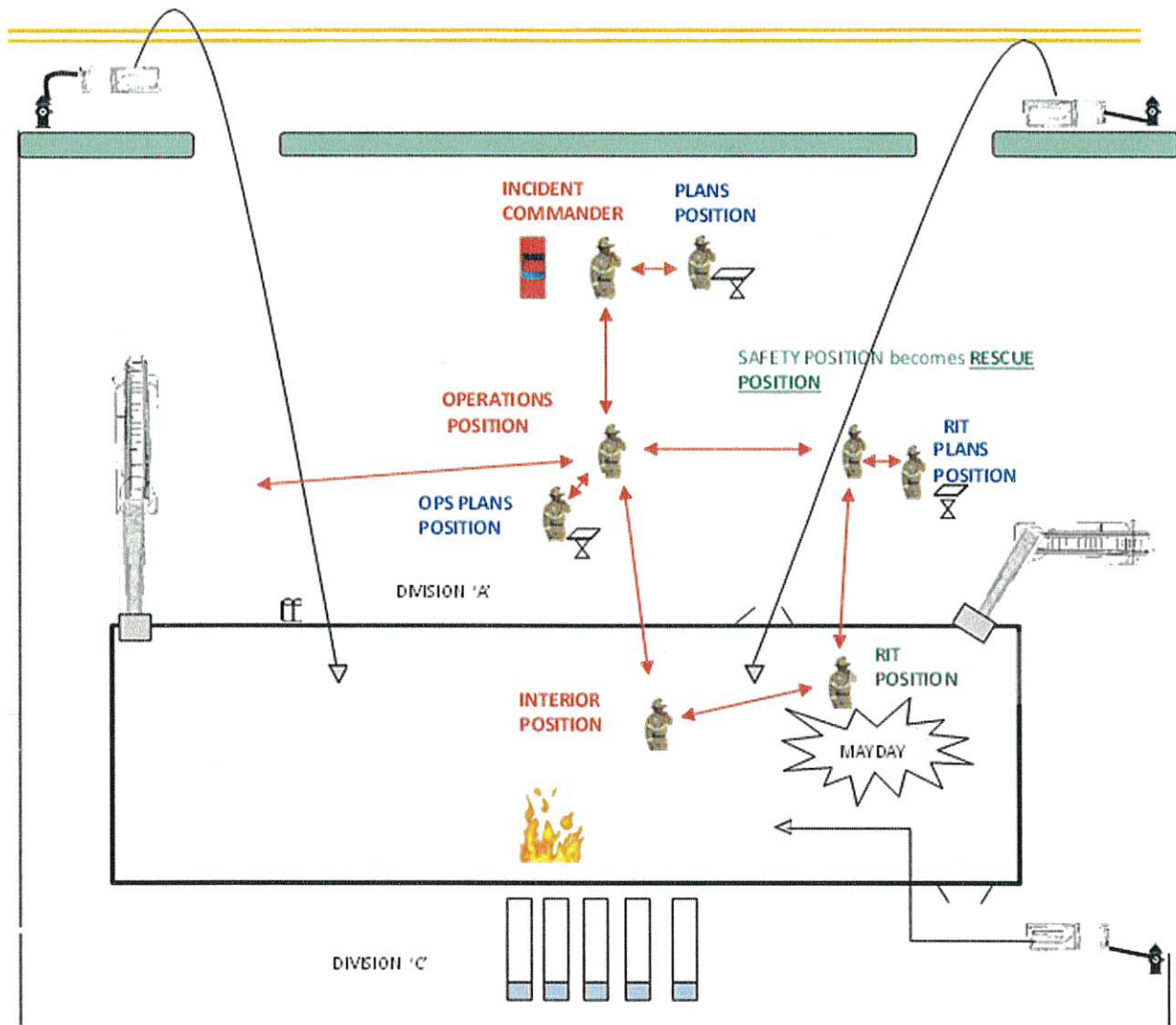
RIT Medic: EMS Medic Company assigned as the RIT transport medic.

RIT Staging Area: The area to which the RIT reports upon arrival on scene and stages themselves, tools and equipment for possible deployment. Normally, the RIT staging area will be established in Division A close to the Incident Command post, but far enough away so as not to interfere with ongoing fireground activities. The Incident Commander may designate an alternate RIT staging area as the situation dictates. For high rise fires, the RIT staging area will be established between 1 and 3 floors below the fire floor (situation will dictate).

01-2 GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

2.1 IMS ORGANIZATION

- 2.1.1 It must be noted that a 'Mayday' incident will immediately divide the original fire incident into two separate incidents. The Safety Command position should be prepared to assume the role of a Rescue Command position in the event of a Mayday.
- 2.1.2 The rescue command position shall assume exterior command operations allowing the RIT position to move as needed dependent upon the type of incident. In some cases, the RIT position may be required to enter the interior to manage the 'Mayday' incident.



2.2 MABAS R.I.T. STAGING AND SIZE-UP

2.2.1 At a MABAS Box Alarm level with MABAS Division 12, the R.I.T. assignment shall consist of:

- One (1) R.I.T. Group Officer (RIT Chief).
- One (1) truck, squad or quint company.
- One (1) engine company.
- One (1) medic unit.

NOTE: In an extreme situation when a MABAS R.I.T. company must be used by the IC for an urgent fireground task (e.g. rescue of civilians, attack of fast spreading fire, etc.), the IC shall immediately request a replacement R.I.T. company(s).

- 2.2.2 The RIT Chief should report to Plans to review the plans board and the number of companies operating and which divisions they are assigned.
- 2.2.3 Once assigned as the RIT, company members must quickly assemble tools and equipment and report to the area near the plans board and let the IC and the RIT Chief know you are in position. At a high-rise incident and once they are directed by the IC, the RIT must proceed to the designated location 1 to 3 floors below the fire floor and check in with Forward Fire Command.
- 2.2.4 On large-scale incidents if 2 or more RIT Companies are assigned, the companies must communicate with their location and assignment.
- 2.2.5 List of equipment for RIT company. In addition, the RIT company should recon the location of additional equipment not contained in the list below such as heavy rescue equipment, aerial device etc.
 - Proper PPE
 - Forcible entry tools, sledge, pike pole
 - Search rope, thermal camera, RIT pack
 - Attic ladder, ground ladder
 - Stokes, Ric-Shaw
 - Battery reciprocating saw and Combi tool
 - Metal saw and wood saw
 - Hand lights and webbing
- 2.2.6 The RIT Company and RIT Chief must conduct an initial 360 size up of the building and conduct additional 360's as necessary. Looking at construction type, floor layout, basement, stairwells, elevators, access points, location of the fire and heaviest concentration of firefighting, and the need for additions RIT companies.
- 2.2.7 The RIT Company and RIT Chief must continually monitor radio traffic, fire conditions, number of companies inside the structure with their position and progress, smoke conditions and structural conditions and stability.
- 2.2.8 Under the direction of the RIT Chief or the IC, the RIT Company members may raise ground ladders to provide for firefighter escapes and remove or report hazards that may impede firefighter escape such as locked gates, fence, burglar bars and high security windows or doors. These proactive activities must not interfere with the RIT's ability to immediately deploy to a mayday when requested.
- 2.2.9 RIT Medic must be ready with equipment and stretcher near the plans board, or a location designated by the RIT Chief.

2.3 MABAS R.I.T. DEPLOYMENT

2.3.1 RIT Chief Responsibilities

- Confirm the mayday with the IC along with the nature of the incident (lost, trapped, distressed and/or missing), the number of members involved, their location and name/assignment.
- Face to face with the RIT Company to relay the situation at hand, the plan of action and any pertinent information.
- Notify IC and Safety Officer (who will become the Rescue Chief) of the deployment and plan of action including a CAN report (conditions, actions and needs).
- Remain constantly aware of the RIT team's progress within the hazardous area via face-to-face communication (best) or radio. Coordinate with the RIT Company Officer the need for tools, hose lines and ladders needed to remove the injured member.
- Communicate with the Rescue Chief the best location for the RIT Medic for once the injured member is removed.
- Notify the Rescue Chief as soon as the rescue is complete.
- Conduct a PAR of the RIT Company after exiting and notify the Rescue Chief.

2.3.2 RIT Company Officer responsibilities

- Ensure the RIT Company members understand the situation and plan of action before deployment.
- Move the RIT Company as quickly as possible to the last known location of the distressed member and begin the search/rescue.
- Keep RIT members together and on the RIT fireground channel.
- Notify RIT Chief of the following
 - CAN report (conditions, actions and needs) at least every 5 minutes via face-to-face communication (best) or radio.
 - When a distressed member has been located
 - When a distressed member has been successfully rescued
 - How and where removal is being made
 - PAR of RIT Company following exit from the building
 - Any need for medical attention for company
 - RIT Team Members Responsibilities
- Understand the situation, plan of action being taken and their individual assignments prior to deployment
- Remain on the designated RIT channel and have "scan mode" turned off to ensure information is not missed
- Once deployed, stay together as a team, remaining in voice contact with the RIT Company Officer and/or RIT Chief and aware of the surrounding and on-going operations
- Move with the RIT Company as quickly as possible to the last known location of the distressed member to begin the search and rescue
- Transfer the distressed member to the RIT Medic crew for treatment

- Ensure that the RIT Company Officer is aware of your location for PAR and if you need medical attention

2.3.3 RIT Medic Responsibilities

- Position medic unit in close proximity to the incident allowing for unimpeded egress for the immediate transport of an injured member. Vehicle should be facing towards the exit route.
- Report to RIT staging area with proper equipment
- Verify who the RIT chief and RIT company is
- Switch to RIT Channel if RIT is deployed
- Serve as Triage medic unit if multiple members are injured
- In the extreme circumstance that the RIT medic is reassigned, the officer reassigning must know that you were the RIT medic and that you need to be replaced
- At a minimum, the RIT medic should bring the following up to the scene:
 - Proper PPE per their department policy
 - Portable radios
 - Stretcher, blanket and sheets
 - Backboard, c-collar, defibrillator, medical bags, airway bags, drug box and oxygen.

2.3.4 Rescue Chief Responsibilities

- The Safety Chief will assume the role of Rescue Chief once a mayday is called.
- Announce on the radio that they are assuming the rescue chief position.
- Immediately be in contact with the RIT Chief and fill a support role for the needs of the RIT Chief and RIT Company.
- Inform the IC/Plans of anticipated needs such as equipment and manpower.
- Give regular progress reports to the IC/Plans chief.

2.3.5 Incident Commander Responsibilities

- Acknowledge the mayday and confirm the problem (lost, low air etc.), the number of members involved and the company assignment and location in the structure.
- Inform DuComm of the Mayday and elevate the alarm to the next level.
- Ensure that firefighting operations continue during the rescue operation and take aggressive measures to protect the trapped or missing members from fire or other hazards. Efforts should be concentrated on reinforcing existing positions, keeping the rescue area safe and providing assistance as needed.
- Meet face to face with the RIT Chief (if possible) and the Rescue Chief to discuss the mayday and the plan of action to resolve it.
- Conduct a PAR as soon as possible following the mayday and conduct another PAR when companies have exited the hazardous area.
- Replace the Safety Chief (becomes the Rescue Chief after the mayday) and the original RIT Company that was deployed to the mayday.

2.4 COMMUNICATIONS

- 2.4.1 Companies assigned RIT will monitor and remain on the main fireground channel being used at that incident. When assigned RIT the word RIT will be added after Company signature – for example: “Battalion 28 RIT”, “Tower Ladder 6 RIT”, “Medic 37 RIT”. The Companies assigned RIT duties will keep the “RIT” signature for the duration of the incident unless otherwise assigned a different task.
- 2.4.2 When a member requests a Mayday via the radio, the word “MAYDAY” will be repeated 3 times. The member shall try and give LOCATION – IDENTIFICATION – PROBLEM.
- Location: probable or last known location of Firefighter / Firefighters.
 - Identification: Firefighters’ name, rank, and assignment (Company).
 - Problem: The reason for the Mayday.
- 2.4.3 Companies and Chief Officers not involved in the Mayday may be directed by the IC to switch to an alternate fireground channel. The original fireground channel will be open and dedicated for the victims to transmit vital information such as Location, Identification, and Problem. Also, the RIT operation communications will be on this channel. If possible, face to face communication for all non-urgent communications is highly recommended. Radio discipline is a must during a Mayday incident.
- 2.4.4 If this is a prolonged rescue operation it is recommended to start have the new companies assigned to an alternative fireground channel.
- 2.4.5 Consider a “Command Channel” (fireground channel for the chiefs) if the radio is too busy.
- 2.4.6 If a Mayday is called and RIT is deployed at an incident, the IC and or Plans Chief will immediately notify DuComm of the Mayday, request that the incident be escalated to the next alarm level (i.e. Mayday called at Box alarm level then should be upgraded to 2nd alarm level) and any other resources that may be needed.
- 2.4.7 When a MAYDAY is declared the telecommunicator will prompt the IC for an alarm upgrade and/or TRT Box
- Consider IMAT
 - Consider EMS Box (5 Medics, 1 Suppression Vehicle, 1 Chief)

2.5 RESTRICTIONS

- The R.I.T. should not be used for routine firefighting or relief purposes.
- The R.I.T. should not be rotated by the IC with other companies. It is important for the R.I.T. to maintain a consistent watch of the fireground operations, a constant structural size-up, note the history of the firefight, and maintain a constant state of preparedness throughout the incident.

- In extreme circumstances (rescue of civilians, attack of fast spreading fire, etc.) the IC can use the R.I.T. company for rescue or firefighting tasks other than R.I.T. operations. The IC shall immediately request an additional R.I.T. company.

2.6 MABAS R.I.T. DEACTIVATION

- When the IC determines that the MABAS R.I.T. is no longer necessary at an incident.

3.0 ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A-RIT Checklist and Benchmarks

RIT/Mayday Benchmarks

- ☐ Safety Officer Report to the Incident Commander and assume Rescue Chief
- ☐ Hold radio traffic, confirm/acknowledge the Mayday and obtain LIP (Location, Identity, and Problem).
- ☐ Activate RIT
- ☐ Escalate the alarm; replace original RIT and Safety Officer
- ☐ Ensure firefight continues
- ☐ Conduct a PAR if able. Consider alternate FG channel if needed.
- ☐ **RIT Progress Reports;**
 - **Located**
 - **Hands on**
 - **Air supply**
 - **Packaged**
 - **Moving**
- ☐ Coordinate with the Medical Sector Supervisor to confirm a medic crew is ready to receive the downed firefighter and the ambulance is in a position to transport (not blocked in)
- ☐ Inspect and verify the safety of the helicopter landing location if needed.
- ☐ Secure the Mayday with Ducomm (when the downed firefighter removed from building)
- ☐ Conduct a PAR
- ☐ Re-evaluate operations