



**Rapid Intervention Team and
RIT Officer**

Enactment Date: 2-2018
Effective Date: 2-2018
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Definitions

The following abbreviations that will be seen within this policy are as follows.

- IDLH – Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health.
- ISO – Incident Safety Officer.
- RIT – Rapid Intervention Team.
- RITO – Rapid Intervention Team Chief or Officer assigned to manage the RIT Sector of the fire ground operation.
- IC – Incident Commander
- PAR – Personnel Accountability Report
- IMS – Incident Management System

Section 1 - Scope

While operating at emergency incident scenes, firefighters experience one of the highest occupational injury risks. To minimize emergency scene risk, Division 20 establishes a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) within the Incident Management System (IMS).

-This policy meets the scope and intent of NFPA 1561, 1997 ed., NFPA 1407, 2015 ed., 1710, 2016 ed.

This policy establishes a means to effectively assist firefighters suddenly threatened by a dangerous situation, to initiate an immediate rescue effort in response to a MAYDAY call, report of a lost or missing firefighter, or to other emergency reports. The RIT Team’s primary mission is to be proactive on the fire ground.

This policy encompasses all emergency environments including those considered an IDLH atmosphere. Special response teams may require their team’s policy override the firefighter RIT policy. The Incident Commander must assure, regardless of the type of incident, that a RIT is in place and appropriately equipped to rescue any firefighters in distress.

Section 2 - Team Requirements

Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT):

- RIT consists of 2-3 Firefighters and an Officer with a RIT Chief (when available).
- Shall have at least the same level of training/protective equipment as those operating at the scene.
- Must be trained and able to perform rapid firefighter rescue functions.

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Section 3 - Establishment of RIT

Incident Command shall establish the RIT whenever emergency personnel are expected to operate under hazardous conditions that are deemed IDLH.

RIT structure should be flexible based on the incident’s size and operational complexity. Upon Completion of scene risk evaluation, the Incident Commander shall provide one or more rapid intervention teams commensurate with the risk levels.

- A. Prior to a MABAS level Box Alarm (Full Still or operating in an IDLH atmosphere), the IC shall establish a RIT by either:
 - On-scene personnel designated and dedicated as RIT. (Maintain 2 in / 2 out)
 - Additional company requested as RIT on confirmed working fire.

- B. As the incident escalates to either a MABAS Box Alarm level in size or complexity, the RIT shall be assigned to dedicated, on-scene personnel.
 - Departments may either pre-designate a specific RIT company on their box alarm cards or assign RIT to the first available company.
 - If a RIT Chief is not previously designated, the IC may designate an available Chief or Officer as the RIT Chief.

- C. A formal RIT may take the place of, or include members from, the initial response company (2 In / 2 Out) that may have been established before RIT arrival.

Section 4 - Reporting On the Scene

Companies pre-designated or assigned to the RIT function will bypass staging and report directly to the Incident Commander.

- Apparatus should position so as to not interfere with other fireground operations.
- Incident Command must be made aware that the RIT apparatus will not be available for other tactical assignments (the entire company will be assigned to RIT).

The RIT shall report to the Incident Commander with the following minimum equipment:

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- a. Set of irons (flat head axe & halogen)
- b. Sledge hammer or maul
- c. Search rope 150’ length
- d. Hand lights (spare and each person)
- e. Ground ladder (recommended 24’)
- f. Portable radio with appropriate freq.
- g. SCBA complete with facepiece
- h. SCBA spare cylinder
- i. 8’ or 10’ pike pole

RECOMMENDED OR MADE AVAILABLE

- a. Portable Saws
- b. Oxygen / EMS equipment
- c. Stokes basket
- d. Thermal Imaging Camera

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Structure size-up will dictate additional equipment that may be needed.

RIT shall stage all equipment on a ladder or a stokes basket in an area most readily accessible for potential rescues. RIT equipment should remain mobile at all times for rapid deployment.

RIT members are responsible for carrying individually assigned equipment as recommended in Division 20 training programs and individual department policy.

While the remaining crew assembles the required equipment, the RIT company Officer/Chief will get a face-to-face briefing from the Incident Commander. The briefing could consist of the following information:

- What is the action plan (offensive or defensive)
- What has occurred during the attack (significant events)
- Operating crew locations
- Other resources responding
- View of tactical worksheet
- Review pre-plan information (if available)

Section 5 – Scene Size Up

The RIT is expected to perform initial and on-going structure assessments to determine possible RIT need due to firefighters in distress. Based upon information received from the Incident Commander, the RIT will determine structure access points for rapid entry/exit and other firefighter survival keys. Scene size-up may be conducted by the RIT as a team or with members staged at the immediate access point while others perform the size-up. If the crew splits up to perform size-up, both crews must maintain radio contact with the Incident Commander and each other.

RIT structure size-up will be based on firefighter survival; what may cause firefighters to be trapped, lost, or become missing inside the structure, and how RIT can facilitate their escape. Structure size-up may include, but not be limited to, the following: (See RIT checklist)

- Size-up structure, complete 360 degree walk around when possible
- Highest priority: Identify and remove any hazards that will block or slow firefighter building evacuation. Open or cause to be opened any exit that is locked, blocked or non-existent.
- Building dimensions
- Building occupancy
- Building construction type
- Placement of windows, doors, fire escapes, ect.
- Potential danger from high-security devices
- Fireground tactics being used
- Other operations

After completing the size-up, the RIT Officer/Chief shall report any information to the IC that may suggest a change in conditions. The RIT team should then stage at a primary entry point or other point determined by RIT size-up.

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Section 6 - Primary RIT Task

When assigned, RIT shall be responsible for the following primary tasks:

1. Respond to any report of firefighter(s) in distress (MAYDAY CALL).
2. Assess the need and call for placement of ground ladders.
3. Assemble minimum required equipment at primary entry point.
4. Monitor radio and maintain contact with IC.
5. Assess where firefighters are working in structure and any special tasks assigned.
6. Assure that tools assigned to RIT are appropriate to situation.
7. Receive situation status from Operations Sector or other sectors during deployment.

As part of the scene size-up, RIT may complete the following tasks if this does not take them away from the primary tasks and as long as these tasks support the incident's strategy. These tasks will not include situations requiring direct entry into the IDLH environment or using their SCBA. Task assignments should not be allowed to fatigue the RIT unless needed for rescue.

8. Secure utilities
9. Perform horizontal ventilation
10. Open rear of structure in accordance with primary task function
11. Unblock other areas of egress in operational areas

If RIT deploys into an IDLH environment, as a result of a MAYDAY, or other firefighter emergency, another back-up RIT must be immediately assigned, the alarm level escalated at least one level, and include an additional EMS response.

Section 7 - RIT Activation Procedure

RIT will be activated at any time a firefighter(s) are reported to be in distress, missing or unaccounted for. Upon receipt of any of these conditions, the RIT will deploy with appropriate tools and equipment for the situation. RIT will deploy to the location where the firefighter(s) are in distress or the last known location of the firefighter(s).

- RIT will continue to operate on the initial designated frequency and communicate with the ISO (if established) and communicate directly with the affected firefighter(s).
- All other companies on the fireground will hold their positions and switch radios to an alternate fireground frequency and await instructions from IC.
 - An immediate PAR will be initiated within each company
 - Personnel will not evacuate or abandon their position unless required due to conditions or orders from IC
 - Companies will continue to operate on the alternate frequency for the remainder of the incident. **DO NOT** change back to the initial fireground frequency.

RIT will continue to operate in a rescue mode until firefighter(s) are located, assessed, evacuated from structure, and transferred to medical care. The decision to switch to a recovery mode will only be made by IC.

Section 8 - RIT Officer Assignment

MABAS Division 20 recognizes a RIT Officer assignment as an essential function during MABAS alarm

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incidents. MABAS Division 20 will assign a RIT Officer/Chief at all box alarm or higher incidents.

Duties of the RIT Officer include:

- The RIT Officer/Chief (RITO) will coordinate and act as RIT radio contact. This will enable the RIT to deliver rescue efforts without pausing to communicate on the radio. The RITO will be available to call for additional resources and to provide information to the Incident Safety Officer (ISO) or Incident Command (IC) as necessary.
- The RITO will work and communicate frequently with the Incident Safety Officer (ISO) in exchanging incident progress and safety concerns. These sectors will work independently of each other.
- Additional on-scene RIT teams are designated as Assist Team #1, #2, and so forth.
- This position will essentially serve as a Safety Officer for and with the RIT and will take steps necessary to insure the safety of the RIT while operating in the IDLH. RITO should utilize whatever means to insure sector safety including:
 - Use of Thermal Imaging equipment
 - Ordering of additional resources or changing RIT tactics to support RIT operation
 - Ordering the withdrawal or prohibiting entry into environments judged to hostile for crews to operate.

Section 9 - RIT Officer Qualifications

MABAS Division 20 establishes the following RITO position requirements. It is recommended that departments establish these same requirements as minimums for internal personnel.

- Fire Officer designation within sponsoring department and Fire Officer 1 certification.
- OSFM Fire Department Safety Officer
- Rapid Intervention Training
- Knowledge in building construction
- Knowledge in roles/responsibilities of the RIT, IMS and deployment of RIT
- MABAS Division 20 policies and procedures for RIT, Fireground Safety

Section 10 - Deactivation of RIT

RIT may be deactivated:

- After incident stabilization and when there are no existing IDLH atmospheres.
- After consensus is reached between the ISO and RITO.

The IC will make the final determination and announce to all companies working on fireground that RIT has been deactivated. If RIT operations are used, RIT companies may be mentally/physically exhausted and shall report to rehab for evaluation. After RIT reports to rehab, RIT may be reassigned to other company tasks. All working fire companies will remain on the designated alternate frequency for the rest of the incident.

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MAYDAY	Command Actions for MAYDAY
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- Clear radio channel for MAYDAY message
 - Identify who is calling & location (LUNAR)
 - Announce to all companies to switch to alternate fireground frequency (white, blue, gold, black, grey – **except for RIT**)
 - Have **ALL SECTORS** conduct PAR
 - *Only RIT/ISO and MAYDAY remain on originally designated fireground frequency*
- Evaluate the situation; lost, trapped, or missing firefighter/crew
- Evaluate if there are any injuries that occurred
- Activate RIT and RIT Officer/Chief to last known location of MAYDAY
- Upgrade alarm one level and request an additional ALS ambulance
- Maintain control of other companies
 - *Have fireground companies continue on current assignments unless withdrawal is necessary for effective RIT operations*
- Support RIT/ISO with additional resources and specialized equipment as requested
- Maintain constant communications with RIT Officer/Chief & ISO to monitor the MAYDAY situation/status



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MABAS DIVISION 20

RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM (RIT) ASSIGNMENT

MINIMUM REQUIRED TOOLS

FORCIBLE ENTRY & EXIT TOOLS

AXE & HALLIGAN BAR - (IRONS)
 SLEDGE HAMMER & MAUL
 150' SEARCH ROPE
 HANDLIGHTS (SPARE & EACH FF)
 GROUND LADDER (RECOMMENDED 24')
 PORT. RADIO W/ FG FREQ.
 SPARE SCBA with FACE PIECE
 SPARE SCBA CYLINDER
 8' OR 10' PIKE POLE

FIREFIGHTER EQUIPMENT

BUNKER COAT & PANTS with BOOTS
 FIRE HELMET, NOMEX HOOD & GLOVES
 PERSONNEL HAND LIGHT & WEBBING
 PORTABLE RADIO with MICROPHONE

RADIO FREQUENCIES

FIRE BAND - 154.370
 IFERN - 154.265
 FIRE GROUND RED - 153.830
 FIRE GROUND WHITE - 154.295
 FIRE GROUND BLUE - 154.280

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT (IF AVAILABLE)

PORTABLE SAWS
 EMS JUMP BAG with OXYGEN
 STOKES BASKET

RIT PACK
 6' & 8' PIKE POLES
 THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA

PRIMARY TASKS

CHECK IN WITH COMMAND
 MONITOR RADIO

ASSEMBLE RIT EQUIPMENT
 COMPLETE WALK AROUND

DETERMINE CREW LOCATIONS AND ACTIVITIES
 ASSESS NEED FOR & PLACE GROUND LADDERS AS NEEDED