**Purpose**

To ensure that Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) operations are implemented at emergency incidents in San Luis Obispo County; thereby, providing an immediate-need rescue capability for all fire personnel.

**Authority**

This SOG has been developed and adopted by the San Luis Obispo County Fire Chiefs Association. It is based on Firescope ICS-500 - Structure Fire Operations, Firescope ICS-910 - Firefighter Incident Safety and Accountability Guidelines, NFPA 1407 - Standard for Training Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews, NFPA 1710 - Standard for Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operation to the Public by Career Fire Departments, the SLO County Operational Area Fire & Mutual Aid Operations Plan, and recognized fire service industry best practices.

**Scope**

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Incident Commander on all emergency incidents or structure fires that have an IDLH environment to ensure that a Rapid Intervention Crew is in place and fully equipped. The decision regarding the timing of the establishment (assignment) of the RIC shall be at the discretion of the Incident Commander. Establishing RIC shall be considered on any incident where fire personnel are working within an IDLH.
2. The utilization of RIC personnel and equipment for any other purpose is discouraged. The number of RIC(s) shall be driven by the needs of the incident as determined by the Incident Commander. Additional Rapid Intervention Crews should be considered for: very large occupancies; fires where multiple entry points are used; and where other rescue and access conditions warrant.

**Definitions**

1. **CAN Report:** A statement of Conditions/Actions/Needs that gives the Incident Command, Operations, or Division/Group Supervisors a concise situation report and resource need request.
2. **Emergency Traffic:** "Emergency traffic" shall be used as a designator to clear the radio traffic for an emergency affecting the incident and can be declared by any member who becomes aware of an emergency affecting the incident. When a member declares “emergency traffic” that person shall use clear text to identify the type of emergency, change in conditions, or tactical operations. Once the emergency is concluded, the IC shall transmit the message "all clear, resume radio traffic" to end the emergency situation or to re-open the radio channels to communication. Criteria for using Emergency Traffic may include, but is not limited to; a Mayday situation, potential structural collapse, rapidly changing fire conditions, a major change in tactical operations, or a need to clear tactical/command radio channels etc.
3. **IDLH:** Immediately dangerous to life and health. All interior structure fires, beyond the incipient phase, are considered IDLH and require firefighters to be appropriately equipped in full PPE, and compliance with the 2-In/2-Out OSHA requirement.
4. **Mayday:** “Mayday” shall be used as the designator to identify when a member is in a life-threatening situation and in need of immediate assistance or rescue, and can be declared by any member who becomes aware of a member who is faced with a life-threatening situation and/or in need of immediate assistance.The term “Mayday” will be reserved only to report lost/entrapped/injured firefighters needing immediate assistance.
5. **NUCAN Report:** A statement from a distressed firefighter indicating *Name, Unit, Conditions, Actions, and Needs* that provides the Incident Commander a concise situation report and helps direct RIC resources. A **PAC** Assessment will be performed on the distressed firefighter once located by RIC:

**P -** Person – Is this the person you’re looking for?

1. PASS Device – Silence it
2. Portable Radio – Turn the downed firefighter’s portable radio off to reduce radio interference.

**A -** Air – Check the downed firefighter’s air supply

1. Assessment – Checking for entrapment or entanglement
2. Actions – What you are doing with the downed firefighter
3. Air options
4. Packaging type
5. Location of exit points

**C -** Communicate a CAN report based on the information gathered from the PAC assessment.

1. **PAR:** Personnel Accountability Report, a report provided by the supervisor indicating the status of the company. The Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) is a roll call procedure initiated by Command to confirm that all personnel assigned to an emergency incident are physically accounted for. Responses to a PAR will be in the following format: Unit Number, Number of Personnel, and Current Assignment.
2. **Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC):** a crew standing-by in a ready state to immediately react and deploy to rescue injured, trapped, or lost emergency personnel. RIC consists of a minimum 2-person crew (a minimum of 3 is preferred) and typically is established after the 2-Out/BUC assignment is made. The company officer of the company assigned RIC will be the RIC Officer. Rapid Intervention Crews are not to be utilized for any other operations other than the rescue of Firefighters on an emergency incident.
3. **RIC Group Supervisor (RGS)**: Rapid Intervention Crew direct supervisor designated by the IC to supervise all RIC crews and RIC operations. This may be a company or chief officer, or someone qualified as such. The RIC Group Supervisor is a different position than the RIC Officer. The RIC Group Supervisor should be established when more than one RIC is assigned or anytime there is a RIC activation.
4. **Softening the building**: The act of prepping a structure, enhancing access/egress (including forcing doors and windows while maintaining flow path restrictions), and clearing a pathway around the structure to make the interior more accessible and tenable. Softening should be coordinated with interior operations and not negatively impact fire conditions.
5. **2-In/2-Out:** Must be established by first arriving crews when an IDLH or potential IDLH atmosphere exists (the only exception is a known life hazard). When operating in and around hazardous environments two members are required to remain outside the IDLH, ready to provide assistance to the members inside the IDLH. The 2-Out (aka Back-up Crew or BUC) is not RIC, and RIC is not the 2-Out/BUC. Refer to the OSHA requirement found in 29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4) for additional requirements of 2-In/2-Out.

**Procedure**

1. **Pre-Deployment**

The following procedures will be followed:

1. The IC will designate an engine company to assume the RIC assignment. The company officer of the company assigned RIC will be the RIC Officer. The company given the assignment as RIC will use “RIC" as their radio identifier, and not their agency/resource designator.
2. The RIC Officer shall confirm with the IC the staging location of RIC. Unless otherwise directed by the IC, RIC should stage their equipment in proximity to the primary entry point of the structure while not hindering fireground operations. Refer to **SLO County SOG Policy 402.00 – RIC Equipment List** for the standard/expectation for the SLO County Fire Service regarding the equipment (aka RIC Tool Strip) to be assembled by a company who is assigned RIC at an incident. If no unit is assigned for Medical stand-by, RIC should include EMS gear with the RIC equipment.
3. The RIC Officer and one team member shall complete a 360 size up of the building, evaluate the fire conditions, identify hazard areas, and determine if any special tools and equipment are needed to perform a rescue. The RIC officer should request additional RIC Companies as necessary to meet the needs of the incident.
4. The RIC company shall take measures to “soften” the building if the performance of these tasks does not impair their ability to rapidly deploy.
5. RIC should place ground ladders: on all sides of the fire building; to the second and third story windows for egress; to the roof. RIC can request assistance through the IC to complete this if necessary.
6. RIC shall not participate in any assignment that impedes their ability to rapidly deploy.
7. Assign a RIC Group Supervisor (RGS) based on the needs of the incident. A RGS should be assigned when multiple RICs are assigned (e.g., RIC1, RIC2); when there is a RIC deployment or when a large building/occupancy with multiple firefighter points of entry is involved.
8. When appropriate, an additional secondary tactical channel shall be established.
9. In the case of a high- rise incident, RIC should be located at the staging floor or no lower than two floors below the fire floor as determined by the IC.
10. The RGS or RIC Officer shall know and track the location and assignment of companies on the incident.
11. The RIC assignment shall be maintained unless relieved by another company or the position is terminated by the Incident Commander.
12. **Deployment**

The following procedures will be followed:

1. A RIC deployment will be initiated by the Incident Commander for any firefighter in a life-threatening situation and/or in need of immediate assistance.
2. Upon hearing the “MAYDAY”, the IC shall acknowledge the radio traffic.
3. The IC shall announce EMERGENCY TRAFFIC.
4. The IC shall ask for the “MAYDAY” firefighter’s NUCAN report.
5. The IC shall request “Emergency Tones” from dispatch if available.
6. The firefighter initiating the “MAYDAY” shall be instructed to activate their PASS device, turn on their flashlight, remain calm, and stay on the current radio channel.
7. The IC should consider the resources necessary to rescue a firefighter, and shall request additional resources as needed (an additional alarm, a second ambulance). The initial assignment to assist in FF rescue may be given by the IC to the company already assigned 2-out/BUC if the IC had not yet assigned a company as RIC.
8. All companies assisting in the rescue will work for the RIC Officer (or RGS if established) and remain on the primary tac channel. If not already established, the IC shall assign a RGS.
9. Once there is a RIC activation, all personnel on the fireground shall use radio discipline allowing the tactical channel to be used by the Rapid Intervention Crew, the IC, the RGS, other companies directly involved in the rescue, and the Firefighter(s) in distress. The IC should consider switching all non-rescue related traffic to a secondary tac channel at the earliest available opportunity.
10. A PAR shall be initiated by the IC and performed as soon as possible.
11. The IC shall assign additional RIC(s) to provide RIC coverage for the remaining operations.
12. The IC shall conduct an immediate evaluation of current operations.
13. The IC shall ensure that firefighting positions and activities are not abandoned. A concentrated effort shall be made to reinforce existing fire attack positions with an emphasis on controlling the fire in the proximity of the rescue area.
14. Post-Deployment Considerations

**Incident Commander’s** responsibilities:

1. Develop relief schedule for all affected crews.
2. Assign a Chief Officer to arrange for Peer Support.
3. Request Fire Investigator(s) if not yet requested.
4. Secure equipment from rescued firefighters (PPE, SCBA, etc.) in place for Department Fire Investigators and Cal-OSHA investigation.
5. Agency having jurisdictional authority will contact the affected agency Fire Chief of the RIC deployment.
6. Continue structural evaluation and notify necessary public agencies as needed.
7. Establish an Agency Representative/ Firefighter liaison.
8. Request a PIO to the scene if not yet requested.

Every rescue action will be investigated, and a Post-Incident Analysis Summary (PIAS) shall be sent to the affected agency Fire Chief within 30 days after any RIC activation for firefighter rescue by the Incident Commander.