

RAPID INTERVENTION TEAMS

Purpose: The purpose of the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) is to provide rapid rescue for structural firefighting crews operating at an emergency scene. The Incident Commander is responsible for establishing the RIT Team during the first alarm assignment of every structural incident. The RIT Team shall stay as a team until such time as the IC releases them from their assignment.

Guideline: The RIT Team shall consist of one (1) officer and three (3) firefighters. The officer is responsible for assembling the minimal equipment required. A company assigned as the RIT Team must report to the IC with the minimal equipment listed below. The RIT Team cannot be used to relieve another crew unless a replacement team (RIT) has been established. The tools and water supply needed by the RIT Team is dependent on location, conditions, extent and involvement of the incident.

The RIT officer will constantly evaluate conditions and monitor radio communications.

Minimal Equipment:

Blue Tarp (tool placement)	Hand line / Extinguisher
RIT Bag	Irons (flat head axe/Halligan tool)
Hand lights	Officers Tool
Thermal Imaging Camera	

Based on a size up by the RIT officer other equipment needed may be, but not limited to, folding ladder, saws, spanner belt, or any additional equipment needed and preplan of the building, if available.

Once equipment is staged members should make a scene survey identifying the following:

Entrances and Exits	Water Supply
Location of Ladders	Hoselines
Fences / Obstructions / Pools	Utilities

The RIT Team is encouraged to assist where needed in outside evolutions such as:

- Setting up Positive Pressure Ventilation or Lighting
- Placing Escape Ladders for Interior Crews
- Securing a Static Water Supply
- Set up an Equipment Staging Area

If Command or a Sector Officer receives a “MAYDAY” message from a firefighter(s), or loses radio contact with a crew, the IC will immediately request a PAR of all crews operating on the fire ground.

If a crew cannot be contacted they are considered “lost”. Command will:

1. Send the RIT to the last know location of the missing firefighter(s).
2. Request “MAYDAY” and broadcast that firefighter(s) is missing and every effort shall be made to locate and remove the missing members.

Shift fire ground priorities to locating and removing the lost firefighter(s). Firefighting operations that are controlling the fire shall not be compromised.