

# Little Creek Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.

**Sta. 54**

**P.O. Box 327  
311 Main St.  
Little Creek, DE 19961**

## **Standard Operating Guideline – 08-01 Response to Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) and Mayday**

**Purpose:** Establish a Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) for the deployment of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) for missing, injured or trapped firefighters

**Scope:** All fire department personnel.

### **DEFINITION:**

2.1. A Rapid Intervention Team is a group of at least four firefighters who may be called upon to quickly rescue or otherwise intervene and return to safety trapped or injured firefighters operating at the scene of an emergency.

2.2. The R.I.T. establishes a means of quickly and effectively assisting members suddenly threatened by a dangerous situation at an incident. The R.I.T. provides a means for the Incident Commander to initiate an immediate rescue effort.

### **PROCEDURES**

3.1. Incident Commander (IC): The IC is responsible for the safety of all emergency responders. The IC will insure that RIT is established on all level two and three type incidents in accordance with the Standard Operating Guideline for Personal Accountability. The incident commander may also request mutual aid to handle the RIT assignment depending on the complexity of the incident.

3.2. Accountability/Safety Officer: the Incident Commander may appoint as he/she deems necessary.

3.3. Rapid Intervention Team: The team shall comprise a minimum staffing of a company officer and three firefighters. RIT members will secure all required equipment for the type of incident and set up a tool area in the staging area. RIT members will be fully dressed in the required protective clothing and be able to respond to any situation rapidly. RIT members will assist in eliminating hazards and establishing emergency means of egress for firefighting crews.

3.4. Rapid Intervention Team Officer: The RIT officer is responsible for the coordination of all RIT operations. The RIT Officer will work with the Incident Commander in monitoring the fire ground for associate hazards and emergency means of egress for firefighters. The RIT Officer shall ensure that the RIT staging area is located in close proximity to Command.

3.5. The composition and structure of the R.I.T. should be flexible based on the size of the incident and the complexity of operations. The Incident Commander shall evaluate the situation and the risks to operating teams, and shall provide one or more intervention teams depending on the complexity of the situation.

4.1. In the early stages of an incident, the R.I.T. Team shall be:

- Assigned to the fourth arriving unit, which will be dedicated as R.I.T unless, otherwise assigned by the incident commander.
- RIT personnel may perform other functions such as (i.e. deploying ground ladders, securing utilities) while being ready to redeploy to perform the functions of R.I.T when needed. Each team member shall be equipped with an 800 Mhz radio to monitor the incident. RIT team members should never place themselves in a commented situation.

4.2. As the incident expands in size or complexity, the R.I.T. team may be assigned to a mutual aid department and personnel shall be dedicated solely to that function.

4.3. When all other personnel are exhausted the RIT team may be used for other tactical assignments, however the R.I.T. team must be replaced with another crew.

4.4. When the need for rescue is diminished, the R.I.T. may be assigned to other tasks

### **MAYDAY**

5.1. The radio message “May-Day” will be used by fire fighters to report their status as being lost, trapped, or injured and needing rescue. Any member may use “May-Day” to report a lost fire fighter. Any report of “May-Day” will receive priority radio traffic. The term “May-Day” will be reserved ONLY to report a lost, trapped, or injured fire fighter(s). The term “Urgent” will be used to report all other emergencies.

Example:

54- 4 portable: *May-Day, May-Day, May-Day, 54- 4 Portable May-Day.*

Command: *All units stand by 54-4 portable May-Day go ahead*

54-4 portable: *54-4 portable May-Day to Command I am trapped on the second floor, at the C, D corner there has been a floor collapse, I have 1500psi of air left. I believe my legs are trapped and I cannot move them.*

Command: *Command Copies, Command to RIT Officer did you copy the May-Day.*

RIT Officer: *That’s correct we are entering the structure now and remaining on operations channel.*

Command: *Command to Kent Center we have a firefighter down, this is now a level three accountability Incident, have all operating units clear the operations channel.*

5.2. In the event that a firefighter calls a May-Day for being lost trapped or injured in a structure, all necessary support will be directed to the rescue under the direction of the RIT Officer.

5.3. Upon notification and acknowledgement of a trapped or missing firefighter(s); the IC will request from Dispatch a TAC Channel and that the Radio patch be disabled. All fire ground operations will move to the TAC channel. The RIT team and the trapped firefighters will remain on original operations channel.

5.4. An accountability check needs to be completed on both the RIT operations channel and the Fire Ground operations TAC channel to ensure the number of lost, trapped or injured firefighters.

A. When the RIT team is activated level three accountability will be used.

B. Upon locating a downed firefighter, the RIT officer shall confirm the (LUNAR) location, unit number, F/F name, air remaining, how they are trapped or injured and any other equipment needed or personnel to remove him.

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Guideline #: 08-02

Supersedes: None

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5.5. The RIT team officer needs to find out the following information from the lost injured or trapped firefighters.

- A. Firefighters name and unit number ( Firefighter Smith, Engine 5 portable)
  - B. What is their last known location in the building?
  - C. How much air do they have remaining?
  - D. What is their problem i.e. lost, injured or trapped?
  - E. What is needed to remove them? (If the Firefighter knows how he is trapped or injured.)
- 5.6. The RIT team will deploy with any necessary equipment to supply air and remove victim from the structure. (See Check list for equipment needed.)
- 5.7. A Secondary team needs to be assigned and prepared to relieve the initial team to complete the removal of the victims. Additional teams shall be assigned as needed depending on the complexity of the rescue.
- 5.8. Mutual aid should be considered for both suppression and RIT team efforts.
- 5.9 Upon completion of the rescue and all RIT tactical objectives are complete; the RIT officer in coordination with the IC will terminate the RIT operation.
6. The Incident Commander has the authority to deviate from these procedures, as he/she deems necessary.

## RIT TEAM CHECK LIST

### **Arrival**

- Face to Face with IC
- Accountability Tags to IC

### **Size-Up**

- 360° of the building
- Occupancy
- Entry and egress locations
- Potential danger of high security doors, barred windows, building modifications

### **Tactics**

- Offensive, Marginal, Defensive
- Location of interior crews
- Fire ground time v. progress
- Check accountability system

### **Other Operations**

- Check utilities and secure
- Potential collapse and collapse area
- Consider need for additional Rapid Intervention Teams
- Note location of EMS units
- Review egress routes and appropriate laddering to upper floors
- Confirm laddering to fire floor and floor above fire

### **Equipment**

- Tarp for Tool Staging (Orange)
- Portable Radio(s)
- Rescue Rope (100')
- Utility Rope (100')
- Flashlights
- Thermal Imaging Camera
- (1) RIT SCBA
- Halligan/Flat head
- Bolt Cutters
- Pike Poles
- Pick Head Axe
- Saws (K12 Saw & Chain Saw)

Draw the layout of the building and note entrances and egress points.