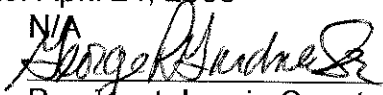


LORAIN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tactical - Rapid Intervention Team Operations | SOG: 009 Effective Date: April 24, 2003 Supersedes: N/A Approved:  President, Lorain County Fire Chiefs Association Page 1 of 4 |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

.10 PURPOSE

To establish standardized policies and procedures for Fire Department personnel functioning as members of the Rapid Intervention Team according to NFPA Standard 1500.

.20 DIVISIONS AFFECTED

All county fire, rescue and hazmat agencies.

.30 RESPONSIBILITY

.31 All officers/supervisors are responsible to comply with and ensure that personnel under their command are adequately trained, fully understand, and comply with this guideline.

.32 All personnel have the responsibility to learn and follow this guideline.

.40 DEFINITIONS

Immediate Danger to Life and Health (IDLH) Atmosphere. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) defines an IDLH atmosphere for interior structure fires to be "an atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere". For the purpose of this procedure, an IDLH will be considered any atmosphere that requires the use of self-contained breathing apparatus.

Working Structure Fire. Terminology used to identify any structure fire that meets the definition of an IDLH atmosphere.

Initial Stages of an Incident. The opening period of an incident during which tasks are being undertaken by the first arriving company with only one team assigned to or operating in the IDLH atmosphere.

Early Stages of an Incident. The period of an incident immediately following its initial stages. This period is characterized by the operation of more than one team within the IDLH atmosphere.

Standby Persons. Two individuals serving as the temporary rescue team at the scene of an emergency incident during the initial stage of the operation. Their function is to provide personnel for the potential need for rescue of Fire Department personnel operating at working structure fires until the establishment of the RIT. **Caution: One of these two standby persons must continuously monitor the inside team and be clothed in full PPE with SCBA.**

Rapid Intervention Team (RIT). The designated rescue team at the scene of working structure fires. This team is designed to provide immediately available personnel for any possible need for rescue of Fire Department personnel operating at emergency incidents.

RIT Bag. A bag containing equipment for use by the RIT in rescue situations.

.50 EMERGENCY EVACUATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

.51 When it is necessary for Incident Command, a sector officer, or any firefighter to declare an emergency, radio communication shall be initiated with the phrase "**EMERGENCY TRAFFIC**" or "**MAYDAY**".

.52 In event that the IC declares an evacuation of the structure and/or hazardous area, the standardized evacuation signal shall include:

- a. Three (3) long blasts of the apparatus air horns;
- b. A general broadcast over all radio frequencies, stating "Evacuate" repeated three times.

.53 Upon evacuation of all personnel, an immediate accountability shall be conducted to determine that all personnel are safe and accounted for.

.60 POLICY

.61 Fire Departments should utilize the Rapid Intervention Team concept as standard practice for all appropriate emergency incidents having more than one team operating in the hazardous IDLH atmosphere.

.62 Use of RIT concept shall be mandatory at all emergencies involving use of mutual aid.

.70 PROCEDURE

- .71 When more than one crew is operating or assigned to an IDLH atmosphere, the incident shall no longer be considered in its initial stage. The Incident Commander shall evaluate the situation and the risks to operating teams, and shall provide at least one RIT team. Additional RITs may be assigned as necessary to maintain a safe working environment for personnel operating at the scene of large or complex emergency incidents.
- .72 A RIT team will be established using personnel from the first alarm units or from mutual aid companies. Each RIT team shall consist of at least two individuals who shall be readily available for the rescue of an individual or a team.
- .73 If it becomes necessary for the Incident Commander to assign the RIT members to another function, another crew must be immediately assigned as the RIT.
- .74 RIT duties and functions can only be reassigned to another RIT in the same manner as other assignments are transferred in the Incident Command System.
- .75 If the RIT is deployed for a rescue:
- a. The Incident Commander shall assign a separate radio channel for its operations.
 - b. Two additional suppression companies (or MABAS box alarm) and an additional ALS ambulance unit shall automatically be requested.
 - c. A replacement RIT team shall be immediately assigned.
 - d. A RIT Sector shall be established for the operation.
- .77 RIT crews shall:
- a. Consist of on-scene personnel designated and dedicated as the RIT.
 - b. Don full protective equipment including SCBA.
 - c. Have the following equipment readily accessible:
 - RIT Bag (see Attachment 1)
 - Portable Radio
 - Halligan Bar and/or other appropriate forcible entry tools
 - Handlight for each team member
 - Spare SCBA for the trapped member(s)
 - d. Size up the building for potential hazards and points of entry.

- E. Have special tools or equipment readily available as indicated by size-up.
- F. Be familiar with the deployment of units via accountability board and be in as close proximity to the Incident Commander as possible.
- G. In a highrise application, the RIT shall remain outside the IDLH atmosphere—at least one floor below or in the enclosed stairwell.
- H. The RIT shall have a hoseline available specifically for the rescue effort. Consideration should be given to supplying this hose line from a secondary water supply.
- I. The RIT Bag should be deployed by attaching the rope to a stationary object outside the IDLH and carrying the bag into the rescue area. This will facilitate use of the light on the bag as a reference for personnel in the IDLH.

.80 Rapid Intervention Team - Available Equipment

- 1. 150' bag of 3/8 in. kernmantle lifeline in bag- for pulling, hoisting, or dragging of firefighters or victims.
- 2. 150' of tag (search) line in bag - for marking point of origin and egress.
- 3. Carry bag – designed for hands-free tag line deployment
- 4. Assorted rope rescue accessories, including carabiners, webbing, pulleys, etc.
- 5. Extra SCBA facepiece and breathing air cylinders.
- 6. Forcible entry tools required for incident.
- 7. Hand tools required for incident.