

1.0. Purpose:

1.1. To standardize the response, responsibilities, equipment and operations of a properly trained and dedicated group of firefighters from each Fire Department within Valley Shore Towns for the purpose of rescuing and / or assisting firefighters who are in distress or trapped at an emergency incident.

1.2. This guideline also meets

- A. OSHA 29 CFR part 1910.134 (g) (3) (iii).
- B. NFPA 1500 Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health 6.5.2.
- C. NFPA 1561 Standard on Fire Department Incident Management Systems
- D. NFPA 1407 Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) Standard Operating Procedure Guideline.

2.0 Scope:

2.1. This standard operating guideline can be utilized by all Fire Departments in Valley Shore Towns for the purpose of assuring the presence of a properly trained Rapid Intervention Team using either manpower levels from within their own jurisdiction or from a mutual aid response from surrounding jurisdictions.

3.0. Definitions:

3.1. A Rapid Intervention Team (**RIT**): Is a group of a minimum of 4 firefighters who are trained, equipped and immediately available for rapid intervention, and whose only or primary purpose is to locate, assist and rescue firefighters who are in trouble on the fire ground or in the IDLH atmosphere. If a RIT team fails to muster four RIT qualified firefighters in a reasonable amount of time the IC should be notified as soon as possible to determine if the primary RIT team should be augmented or replaced with another RIT Team.

3.2. Team Leader: Should be designated for each **RIT** team established at an emergency incident. The team leader should report directly to the Incident Commander. The team leader will be the ranking officer or the senior firefighter of each team who should be RIT trained.

- A. Upon arrival at the incident check in with the IC to verify the teams presence.
- B. Identify the radio frequency / frequencies being used in operations
- C. Advise the IC of the team's staging area.
- D. RIT Teams are recommended to operate on the Valley Shore RIT Channel once on scene.

4.0 Personnel and Training:

- 4.1. At a minimum, **RIT** members should have completed the following training courses or programs in order to be designated for assignment to a **RIT**.
- Connecticut Certified Firefighter 1 or meets NFPA 1001 standard by their dept
 - Certified as an interior firefighter by their dept
 - Certified as Haz-Mat Operational
 - Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certified

 - Completion of training courses in specific techniques and procedures used by Rapid Intervention Teams within the fire service.
 - Familiar with the types and operation of SCBA, pneumatic, hydraulic and gas powered rescue equipment used by other surrounding fire jurisdictions.
 - The Chief of the respective department should appoint members to the RIT team.

5.0. Communications:

- 5.1. The **RIT** will be dispatched by the appropriate dispatch center upon confirmation of a working fire or upon receiving multiple calls of a working fire or any other emergency deemed necessary by the Incident Commander (IC).
- 5.2. The dispatcher should notify the assigned unit that they are the **RIT**.
- 5.3. The dispatcher should notify the IC of the identity of the responding **RIT**.
- 5.4. Each **RIT** should have a minimum of a portable radio for every **RIT** member.

5.5. When a MAYDAY is declared the Incident Commander should strongly consider moving routine fire traffic to an alternate CHANNEL.**6.0. Position:**

- 6.1. Upon arrival the **RIT** leader should report to Command and operate under the IC.
- 6.2. A member of the **RIT** should remain in verbal contact with the IC at all times as a liaison.
- 6.3 The IC may form additional **RIT**'s as needed depending on the scope and complexity of the incident.
- 6.4. The radio designation of each **RIT** formed should be **RIT 1 RIT 2 RIT 3** and so on.

6.5. If the **RIT** is deployed an additional **RIT** should be established immediately.

6.6. If reassigned by the IC to other than **RIT** distress duties, the **RIT** leader should **inform** such superior of the designation, and request the dispatch of an additional **RIT**.

7.0. Duties:

7.1. The **RIT** should determine the availability and location of ladders, lighting equipment, rescue tools (“Jaws of Life”), pneumatic rams, air bags, aerial, tower and portable ladders, and / or other tools and equipment which might be needed to perform distress duties.

7.2 The **RIT** members should be allowed and are recommended to position and or ready ground ladders on the fire structure as a secondary means of escape for fire personnel. These actions should be coordinated with the Incident Commander.

7.3. The **RIT** leader should periodically perform a 360 degree walk around of the building / incident for size up purposes. Areas of operating hazard should be addressed such as gas tanks removed, doors for egress identified unlocked and left closed, powerlines in peril should be isolated from operations. All actions should be coordinated with command.

7.4. The **RIT** should maintain a state of constant readiness and re-evaluation to react to the changing fireground conditions. This would include complete turnout gear on, scba worn and mask ready to don, saws run, SCBA rit packs on and tested.

7.5. All operating frequency radio transmissions will be monitored for any indications of members in distress. **(MAYDAY)**

7.6. If the IC utilizes the **RIT** for fire ground emergency operations, then another **RIT** should be established during an incident not yet under control.

7.7 If manpower allows, the RIT team should independently maintain a count of firefighters operating IN and ON the structure and should work to identify locations where those operations are taking place.

NOTE: According to VSMA Guideline 600.2 the Fire Dept where the incident is occurring should designate a Point of Entry Officer maintaining identification tags of firefighters inside a structure or hot zone. Firefighters entering a structure should leave one identification tag at the threshold where they entered.

The RIT Accountability of Firefighters operating at a scene is independent of the Designated Point of Entry Officer.

7.8 The RIT should identify the location of EMS on scene and that the ambulance is not blocked and prevented from transporting from the incident.

8.0 Reports:

- 8.1. If the **RIT** is used at any operation, the **RIT** leader should forward a narrative report.
- 8.2. The report should describe in detail the nature of the distress duties performed by the assigned **RIT**.
- 8.3. The report should be forwarded to the Chief of the respective Department.

9.0 Tools and Equipment:

- All **RIT** members should be in full turnout gear with S.C.B.A. and spare cylinders.
- A full emergency S.C.B.A. will be needed for a trapped firefighter. The RIT must determine model of the S.C.B.A. being used by interior / IDLH crews when responding Mutual Aid.
- Portable radio for every **RIT** member.
- Thermal Imaging Camera
- Search rope (minimum 100 feet).
- Rescue rope
- Ground ladders
- Hand lights all team members
- Rabbit tool
- Set of irons
- Pike poles
- Power saws one each with different blades (metal, concrete wood)
- Fire Service Chain Saws

Team members should determine that the following equipment is on scene and staged as close to the scene as possible as needed.

- Hydraulic rescue Tool
- Air Bags
- Air Chisel
- 110 / volt lighting
- Little Giant Ladder / closet ladder / attic ladder
- Cribbing
- Portable 110 flood lights
- Cord reels
- Sawzall
- Ground ladders
- Stokes