

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM (RIT) SECTION III, 6.0 – 6.1.a-f

*February 17, 2011*

Approved by R. Dale Horne – Fire Chief

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#### 6.0 OBJECTIVE:

- a. The Anderson Fire Department (AFD) is committed to providing for the safety of personnel operating in environments that are Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH).
- b. It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander to insure to the greatest degree possible that a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) be assigned whenever AFD personnel are operating in a potential IDLH to provide emergency rescue if needed.

#### 6.1 PROCEDURE:

- a. Third due engine will assume RIT unless otherwise assigned by Incident Commander (IC). If personnel on 3<sup>rd</sup> due engine are assigned duties that will not allow them to perform RIT, IC must assign RIT to other AFD personnel or request mutual aid for RIT.
- b. The RIT shall be comprised of a minimum of two fire fighters and one officer. More RIT's may be assigned as necessary by the IC to insure all interior operating personnel could be rescued as quickly and efficiently as possible if RIT is needed.
- c. If another department is called in for mutual or to provide RIT, then the RIT should include if at all possible members from both departments to help insure communications and equipment operability with all personnel involved.
- d. Once RIT is on scene, RIT shall communicate to IC via Radio, their position on the scene and availability. Normal position is to be Division A; however, RIT may need to position at a different location if a strategic advantage can be gained (i.e. quicker access, better view of area where AFD personnel are working, or quieter area to better listen to radio traffic). RIT commander should also perform his/her own 360° size up.
- e. RIT can be assigned other duties in Warm Zone such as securing utilities, horizontal ventilation, laddering the structure, second means of egress, etc. so long as the RIT members can stay together and are immediately available for emergency deployment.
- f. The IC or the RIT commander can order a back up attack line be at the ready in the event of offensive attack operations.

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- g. Minimum RIT Equipment will be the RIT bag with rope bag and:
  - i. Hand Light for each member (one on SCBA)
  - ii. Forcible Entry Tool
  - iii. SCOTT PACK TRACKER (in BATT. 1)
  - iv. Portable Radio
  - v. TI Camera
  - vi. Old Style PASS Device (should be already attached to RIT bag)
  - vii. If RIT bag is not available then 4.5 SCBA and spare Mask could be used in its place
- h. RIT shall have access to power saws and any additional equipment as needed.
- i. RIT will preplan a position for quick access to operation area and be responsible for the following:
  - i. Monitoring radio traffic for location of crews and nature of work being done.
  - ii. Monitor exterior conditions
  - iii. Raise ladder(s) to exterior windows or roof if necessary for rescue or secondary egress if other personnel are not available.
  - iv. Location of each ladder should be reported over radio.
- j. RIT should be activated in the following situations:
  - i. Mayday is transmitted
    - i. Activation of Man Down on Portable Radio.
    - ii. Activation of PASS Device.
    - iii. Personnel are unaccounted for after PAR.
    - iv. If firefighter or Group does not respond after repeated attempts to contact.
    - v. Collapse, Explosion, etc.
    - vi. Any other situation the IC determines RIT is needed.
- k. If the RIT has been activated, the following steps should be initiated by the IC:
  - i. IC will conduct PAR to determine firefighter needing assistance, if unknown.
  - ii. IC will announce reason for activation.
  - iii. IC will dedicate radio channel for RIT operations.

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- iv. All other radio traffic should be moved to a different radio channel or held until ALL CLEAR is given by IC.
- v. IC will staff Operations Chief (if not already staffed) to oversee all other fire ground operations.
- vi. IC will try to make contact with firefighter to get more information.
- vii. Remember UCAN: Unit Conditions Actions Needs
- viii. IC will staff another RIT team to cover RIT team that was activated.
- ix. IC will notify EMS of RIT activation.
- x. IC will need to be mindful of labor intensive needs of RIT activation and always be thinking ahead of personnel needs to maintain RIT staffing needs.
- xi. IC will activate Technical Rescue Team if structural collapse, confined space, or high level rescue complications exist.
- 1. If RIT has been activated then the following steps should be initiated by the RIT:
  - i. If RIT is called for lost firefighter:
    - A) RIT will make radio contact with firefighter to determine last known location.
      - (1) Point of entry
      - (2) Floor or division
    - B) RIT is to inform firefighter that PASS device will be activated in the exit.
      - (1) Exit may be window with ladder if firefighter is working on upper floors.
      - (2) Firefighter informs RIT if he is unable to hear PASS or cannot determine exit, go to step b).
      - (3) If firefighter does not show up at PASS or conditions change, go step b).
  - ii. If RIT is called for trapped, unresponsive, or injured firefighter(s):
    - A) RIT will establish last known location firefighter(s) with IC.
    - B) RIT and IC will develop a quick action plan:
      - (1) IC will conduct a rapid size-up and order RIT to advance only if it is reasonably safe to do so and the possibility of rescue exists.
      - (2) RIT will search for firefighter.
        - (a) Use Pack Tracker if warranted

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- (b) Think like a firefighter, listen for noises, follow hose or search lines, use information from firefighter.
- (3) If fire conditions warrant, RIT shall be protected by a hose line at all times.
- (4) If RIT enters an area IDLH with no visibility, a guide rope will be attached to a stationary object outside the IDLH.

***NOTE: Due to the need of clear communications the firefighter declaring a MAYDAY should only activate his PASS device, if told to do so by the IC or RIT or if the PASS device is the only option to declare an emergency.***

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THE ELECTRIC CITY