


SOG 2009-001	Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM (RIT)	Page 1 of 7
	<p style="text-align: center;">Cumberland County Fire Chief's Association</p>	<p><i>REFERENCES:</i> NFPA 1500, Chapter 8, Section 8.3 NFPA 1561, Chapter 3, Section 5.2 & 5.3.</p> <p><i>FORMS: NA</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>1st Reading – 10-23-2017</i> <i>2nd Reading – 11-27-2017</i> <i>Final Reading – 12-18-2017</i></p>
RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM (RIT)		
<i>APPROVED BY: CCFCA Board of Directors – Freddy L. Johnson Sr., President</i>		<i>EFFECTIVE: 1 January 2009</i>

1.0 PURPOSE:

To address the minimum requirements and guidelines for the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) operations. To have a team prepared to assist firefighter(s) who become lost, trapped, disoriented or down due to injury, equipment malfunction or mistake at an emergency incident. The following are recommendations for the Fire Chief to consider and utilize in establishing RIT SOGs and procedures for his/her department. Individual department RIT SOGs may be more detailed or expansive than the guidelines in this document.

2.0 SCOPE:

2.01 The Incident Commander (IC) shall establish a RIT at any working structure fire, any special operation incident or emergency where firefighters are subject to immediate danger of injury in the event of equipment failure or other sudden event (e.g., Confined Space Rescue, HAZMAT, Wildland Urban Interface, Trench Collapse, Terrorism etc).

2.02 The RIT shall be comprised of a minimum of four (4) Interior Structural Firefighters (ISFF). The apparatus driver may be used as one of the ISFF and shall have the required PPE to participate in the mission. It is optional and encouraged that at least one member of the RIT be a firefighter/EMT, and that each member have a minimum of one (1) year experience as a certified ISFF. The Team Officer will command the RIT.

2.03 The size and complexity of the incident will determine the number of required RITs which will be determined by the IC.

3.0 TRAINING:

3.01 Firefighters assigned to RIT shall have completed a recognized RIT training program. The current recognized program in Cumberland County is the 24 hour RIT Orientation and Operations Course. Equivalent courses exist throughout the state and country. Members who have attended these courses shall have their training reviewed and will be “grandfathered” if the training meets the requirements. All Firefighters operating within Cumberland County shall be

familiar with the Cumberland County Fire Chiefs RIT Guideline dated 1 August 2009. All currently qualified Cumberland County Firefighters shall maintain and enhance their respective skills by participating in annual RIT training and review of the CCFC RIT Guideline.

4.0 **GUIDELINES FOR RIT OPERATIONS:**

4.01 During operations requiring RITs, the IC will designate a RIT from units assigned to the incident or pre-designate units as RIT on the incident alarm card. If the assigned unit has insufficient staffing and equipment, the IC will request additional resources via Mutual Aid through Cumberland County Communications. It is highly recommended that department chiefs pre-designate RIT responsibility on their alarm cards at Cumberland County Communications.

4.02 In the event of a firefighter emergency (lost, trapped, out of air, disoriented, medical emergency while operating within IDLH), the IC shall be notified immediately. The Firefighter(s) experiencing the emergency shall transmit MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY three (3) times on the assigned fire ground operating frequency. At this point, it is critical that the distressed firefighter(s) pause and wait for acknowledgement from Dispatch or the IC. If the emergency call is not acknowledged, continue transmitting the MAYDAY call until acknowledged. Once acknowledged, the distressed firefighter will transmit LUNAR.

4.03 The firefighter(s) experiencing the emergency will transmit **LUNAR**:

L – The exact or best known **LOCATION** of the firefighter experiencing the emergency. This location should be transmitted in accordance with (IAW) the ICS and identify, at a minimum, the division and closest known wall (e.g., Division 2C). If at all possible, firefighter(s) should consider identifying the quadrant he/she/they are in (e.g., Division 2 C-D) to narrow the IC's and the RIT's focus for the rescue effort.

U – Is the parent **UNIT** of the distressed firefighter (e.g., Station 21 or Hope Mills Fire Department).

N – Is the distressed firefighter's **NAME** (e.g., Kevin Murphy or Murphy)

A – Is the fireground **ASSIGNMENT** the distressed firefighter is assigned to (e.g., Fire Attack, Vent, and Salvage etc). If the firefighter is assigned to a fire ground operating system that has a corresponding division, this should be included in this area (e.g., Fire Attack 2 or Search 2).

R – Identifies the required **RESOURCES** to affect firefighter rescue. This is an assessment by the distressed firefighter(s) on what's needed to assist him/her/them (e.g., air bags, rotary saw, and ladder to Division 2 C-D).

4.04 The IC will deploy the RIT IAW the information received from the LUNAR report. Firefighter rescue is an organized and controlled effort. It is imperative that the IC maintain control of the fire ground resources, and the activities these resources are conducting, especially

those executing Fire Attack. Free lancing must be discouraged and over-zealous members controlled. Fire attack operations must continue to prevent conditions from intensifying and potential consuming the distressed firefighter or the RIT or both.

4.05 The IC will request an additional alarm be dispatched to support ongoing firefighting operations and firefighter rescue. The IC will immediately designate an additional RIT to replace the deployed RIT now conducting firefighter rescue. If sufficient resources are not available, reassignment of existing resources must be considered until additional alarm units arrive on scene. This RIT may be deployed to assist the original RIT with firefighter rescue operations, if no progress has been made with the first RIT, to enhance the rescue effort or if the initial emergency is large scale.

The RIT is assigned firefighter rescue. Assigning a hand line to the RIT as the “RIT Line” will distract from the RIT’s purpose and mission, slow the RIT ingress and egress significantly, reduce the potential for successful firefighter rescue and be counter-productive. An adequately staffed hand line should be assigned to advance with and support the RIT operation. This hand line shall be under the command and control of the RIT officer.

4.06 The IC shall advise Cumberland County Communications that there is a firefighter MAYDAY on the incident grounds. The dispatcher shall transmit an alert tone over Fire Dispatch Channel 1, the appropriate fire ground tactical channel and EMS Channel 1. The dispatcher will announce “the RIT is now in operation. All companies standby unless you have an emergency”. The dispatcher will repeat this message. Communications will dispatch a Medic Unit to the incident location and place a second Medic Unit on standby. Consideration should be given to adding additional ALS Units to the incident.

4.07 Once a MAYDAY has been transmitted, the RIT shall operate on the fire ground tactical frequency. Fire ground operations shall switch to another tactical frequency assigned by Cumberland County Communications. Only those units designated by the IC shall stay on the original tactical frequency now being utilized by the RIT.

4.08 The RIT shall receive direction, orders and intent solely from the IC. The IC may delegate firefighter rescue to a subordinate chief or officer. In this case, the RIT will report to and take direction from the RIT Division Chief or Officer.

4.09 The RIT Officer shall remain in visual and/or verbal contact with the IC or RIT Division Chief/Officer at all times during the incident. The RIT officer will monitor the fire ground tactical channel, liaise with Manpower and Operations to ensure adequate situation awareness and disposition of firefighting forces within the fire building. The RIT may be used to enhance perspective RIT operations by throwing ladders in support of 2nd floor and higher operations, designation of any “man traps” encountered on the fire ground and removal of any egress limiting factors from the fire building (e.g., window bars, high security devises, forcing locked doors). (It is recommended that the IC assign other units these tasks if resources allow assignment).

4.10 The common fire ground term for a firefighter emergency shall be MAYDAY. Once transmitted three (3) times and acknowledged, the distressed firefighter will transmit LUNAR. The IC will initiate Personal Accountability Report (PAR) to ensure accountability of all operating personnel and to determine the extent of the firefighter emergency (e.g., any missing firefighters may be part of the firefighter emergency).

4.11 The IC will direct situation reports (SITREP) from the RIT at ten (10) minute intervals. The RIT shall transmit the following benchmarks to keep the IC abreast of their progress:

- Entering the fire building
- Firefighter located
- SITREP on firefighter's condition and any additional resources required to affect rescue.
- RIT egressing fire building with/without firefighter
- RIT exiting building

4.12 Deployment of additional RITs is at the IC's discretion. Reinforcing RIT with additional resources and manpower should be considered as additional alarms are requested and received on the fire ground. The critical factor for reinforcing is trained and qualified personnel.

4.13 At completion of the firefighter emergency, the RIT will reconstitute and report back to the IC. RIT members will report to REHAB after one (1) hour's work or after consuming two (2) SCBA cylinders. The RIT officer will constantly monitor his team's condition and recommend replacement or continued assignment to the IC on an hourly basis. The RIT officer will request Team replacement from the IC in the event his/her members become fatigued due to extended operations, extended periods of standby or from weather conditions resulting in high temperatures and high humidity.

5.0 RESTRICTIONS:

5.01 As many firefighter emergencies occur during salvage and overhaul or after the fire has been deemed under control, it is imperative that the RIT be maintained mission ready to respond to any situations. The RIT shall maintain standby until the fire has been declared out by the IC, the requirement for a RIT has diminished and the IC has relieved the RIT of its responsibilities.

5.02 Utilizing the RIT for tasking outside its scope is the prerogative of the IC. However, if the IC commits RIT personnel to other fire ground assignments, he/she must designate another RIT to stand up and be ready for firefighter emergencies.

6.0 REPORTING:

6.01 In the event the RIT is deployed or utilized on the fire ground, a typed After Action Report (AAR) shall be completed. The intent of this report is to serve as a learning tool and critique

that all Cumberland County Fire Departments, as well as the Fire Training Center can review. The AAR shall be forwarded to the IC for review within forty-eight (48) hours of incident completion. Information contained within this report is solely for training and education purposes

6.02 These reports shall be attached to a report covering the incident from start to finish. The RIT Officer will report the following information:

- a. Date, time address and incident number of the incident.
- b. Name of the distressed firefighter and their location.
- c. Conditions encountered prior to deployment.
- d. Conditions during rescue operations.
- e. Approximate time involved to perform the rescue.
- f. Number of RITs used to perform the rescue.
- g. Building sketch and area of the incident.
- h. RIT number designation and members' names.
- i. Any challenges encountered throughout the RIT operation.

7.0 TOOLS/EQUIPMENT FOR RIT:

7.01 The RIT will place their tools and equipment in an easily accessible location close to the Command Post (CP) or designated RIT staging area. The RIT shall not block or restrict access to the CP. Tools and equipment shall be placed on a tarp designated for the RIT. These tools and the equipment shall not be used by other members operating on the fireground.

7.02 RIT essential gear and equipment:

- a. Full PPE for all RIT firefighters (turn out gear, SCBA, hoods, helmets)
- b. One (1) 100 foot lengths of rope, marked every 20 feet and with carabineers affixed to standing end and the running end. The ropes will be stored in bags and the markings on the rope shall be smaller for entry and larger for exit.
- c. RIT pack consisting of a SCBA cylinder, regulator and mask which can be used to supplement or replace the distressed firefighter's air system.
- d. One (1) set of "irons" (Haligan tool and flat head axe).
- e. Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC).
- f. Two (2) 800 MHZ handy-talkie radios.
- g. Flashlights for all firefighters.
- h. Power saw (rotary or chain saw).
- i. Folding attic ladder.
- j. Spare SCBA cylinders (one per RIT firefighter).

7.03 Additional gear and equipment if available

- a. Four (4) 15 foot sections of webbing or rope with carabineers attached to each end for crew work off the main search rope. These items can be carried within the RIT

pack.

- b. An additional set of “irons”.
- c. 6 foot pike pole.
- d. Hydraulic rescue tools (jaws, cutter, rams).
- e. Crayons or chalk to mark doors.

8.0 RIT CREW CHECKLIST

RIT CHECKLIST

- ___ Report to Incident Commander
- ___ Turn in accountability tags to Manpower
- ___ Stage following equipment before entry
 - ___ Full PPE with SCBA for all personnel
 - ___ Search rope in bag
 - ___ RIT Pack with SCBA cylinder, regulator and mask
 - ___ Two (2) 800 MHZ portable radios
 - ___ One (1) set of “irons”
 - ___ Flashlights (one per RIT member)
 - ___ Power saw (K-12 or chainsaw)
 - ___ Spare SCBA cylinders (one per RIT member)
 - ___ Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC)
 - ___ Scene size up
 - ___ Ingress and egress points from each division
 - ___ Fire/Hot zone location
 - ___ Number or personnel operating inside the fire building/IDLH
 - ___ Disposition of personnel operating inside the fire building/IDLH
 - ___ Hazards in/around area
 - ___ man traps
 - ___ fencing
 - ___ pits/shafts/exterior stairs
 - ___ Available resources (what’s on the fireground)
 - ___ engines
 - ___ trucks
 - ___ rescue trucks
 - ___ locations of ground and operating aerial apparatus
 - ___ 360 degree walk around conducted
 - ___ RIT briefed on findings
 - ___ IC briefed on findings
 - ___ recommendations provided
 - ___ additional resources requested
 - ___ additional specialized equipment requested
 - ___ staging area identified/designated
 - ___ Fireground tactical frequency is ___

9.0 **REFERENCES**

This policy shall meet the minimum requirements set forth by:

- N.F.P.A. 1500 Chapter 6
- N.F.P.A. 1561 Chapter 4
- C.F.R. 1910.120
- C.F.R. 1910.134 Chapter 3 (I)
- C.F.R. 1910.156