Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)

This section identifies the appropriate AHJ Occupational Health and Safety Regulation that pertains to RIT. It further defines the various levels of RIT, procedures for deployment and suggested equipment needs as determined by industry best practices.

This section applies to all RFR personnel.

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Establishing A RIT In Accordance With Occupational Health And Safety Regulations
What Is A Rapid Intervention Fire Fighter (RIFF)?
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What Is A Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)?
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Policy

RFR personnel will be familiar with and follow all procedures and regulations in order to ensure safe operations and support for members working in Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmospheres.

Scope

This document applies to all operations where a RIT is necessary to provide immediate and available assistance to personnel that may be in distress or become trapped and/or lost.

Establishing A RIT In Accordance With Occupational Health And Safety Regulations

The Incident Commander at any incident will establish a Rapid Intervention Team in accordance with:

WorkSafe BC Occupational Health & Safety Regulation 31.23 Entry into Buildings

OHS 31.23:

1. When self-contained breathing apparatus must be used to enter a building, or similar enclosed location, the entry must be made with a team of at least (x2) fire fighters.
2. Effective voice communication must be maintained between fire fighters inside and outside the enclosed location.

3. During the initial attack stages of an incident at least (x1) fire fighter must remain outside.

4. A suitably equipped rescue team of at least (x2) fire fighters must be established on the scene before sending in a second entry team and not more than 10 minutes after the initial attack.

5. The rescue team required in subsection (4) must not engage in any duties that limit their ability to make a prompt response to rescue an endangered fire fighter while interior structural fire fighting is being conducted.

**What Is A Rapid Intervention Fire Fighter (RIFF)?**

A Rapid Intervention Fire Fighter (RIFF) is the single fire fighter that is required under OHS 31.23(3) to allow firefighters at the scene to start their initial attack of a fire or a rescue operation involving entry into an IDLH atmosphere if additional firefighters are expected to be on scene and able to provide a suitably equipped rescue team within 10 minutes of the start of the initial attack. The RIFF is a rescue worker that is expected to be stationed at or near the entrance of the IDLH and is similarly equipped and capable of affecting rescue as defined in Worksafe OHS G31.23 Entry into Buildings (see link below).

http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/GuidelinePart31.asp#SectionNumber:G31.23

**What Is An Initial Rapid Intervention Team (IRIT)?**

An Initial Rapid Intervention Team (IRIT) is a minimum of two fully equipped members from the initial response assignment who are assigned for rapid deployment to rescue lost or trapped members. IRIT’s must be formed as soon as adequate resources are on scene. This will supersede the use of a RIFF and the 10 minute “window” if adequate personnel are on scene initially.

**What Is A Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)?**

A Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) is a dedicated crew of fire fighters who are assigned for rapid deployment to rescue lost or trapped members once the incident progresses past the initial stage.

**What Is A Rapid Intervention (RI) Group Supervisor?**

When an incident escalates beyond an initial full alarm assignment or when significant risk is present to the fire fighters due to the magnitude of the incident, the Incident Commander shall upgrade the minimum two person RIT to a full rapid intervention crew(s). This crew should consist of an officer or pool officer that will act as the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor and at least three fire fighters who are fully equipped and trained in RIT operations. Additional RIT’s may be established as required to work under the supervision of the RI Group Supervisor.
Reporting Structure

All above noted personnel associated with RIT report directly to the Incident Commander or Operations Section Chief if established.

The RI Group Supervisor(s) will coordinate and manage the rescue operations under the strategic and tactical direction of the Incident Commander or Operations Section Chief if established.

Maintaining RIT

When a RIT is deployed, a second RIT must be established. When establishing additional RITs, take into consideration the entry point location, number of personnel, and distance to personnel.

RIT members must not engage in any duties that limit their ability to make a prompt response to rescue an endangered firefighter while interior structural firefighting is being conducted. However, they may be assigned brief duties such as raising a ladder for a second egress (report actions to the Incident Commander/Operations Section Chief) or related duties to enhance firefighter safety.

Procedure

RFR personnel will follow these instructions:

**Incident Commander**
1. Assign RIT team members and determine equipment requirements, in accordance with Worksafe BC *Occupational Health & Safety Regulation 31.23*

**RIT Members**
3. Obtain a list of all Companies assigned to the incident, locations, and activities with the number of firefighters committed to interior/exterior operations, call signs, number of assigned personnel and their locations.
4. Obtain the Fire Pre-Plan (if available).
5. Acquire the RIT kit (see RIT Kit), RIT Checklist.
6. Monitor radio traffic, and monitor crew activities over the operational channel.
7. Conduct a visual 360-degree size-up of the structure. Isolate Gas Utility and establish secondary means of egresses as required.
8. Identify and quickly establish a rapid deployment area for RIT that allows for RIT entry, and advise Incident Commander/Operations Section Chief, but without interference to fire fighter operations and outside collapse zones or other hazards. For high-rise rescue, locate the RIT on the deployment floor, one floor below the fire.
9. Report findings preferably in person to the Incident Commander/Operations Section Chief/ RI Group Supervisor.
10. Follow additional instructions from the Incident Commander/Operations Section Chief/ RI Group Supervisor and report to RIT standby/depot area.

11. Standby at the RIT equipment rapid deployment depot area.

**All Personnel**

12. Activate the RIT over the radio by calling out, “MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY”, followed by your LUNAR

- L - Location, (Bravo/Charlie, 2nd floor)
- U - Unit, (Assignment and Company designation)
- N - Name(s), (of person(s) requiring assistance)
- A - Air supply, (remaining)
- R - Resources, (needed)

If you cannot radio a Mayday or it is not acknowledged, activate the EMERGENCY BUTTON on your radio. This will initiate a “Hot Mike” which will override all other radio traffic for 8 seconds at 50 second intervals. During this “Hot Mike” period you may announce your LUNAR.

13. Upon hearing the MAYDAY alert, stop all radio communication not related to the RIT emergency.

Other suppression personnel may be assigned a new TAC channel at the discretion of the Incident Commander/Operations Section Chief’s. RI Group Supervisors may be pre-assigned by the Incident Commander/Operations Section Chief with their own RIT Channel to better coordinate rescue activities amongst their team(s).

**RIT Members**

14. Formulate a problem list, based on information about the problem and suspected location, for example:

- Lost/disoriented fire fighter
- Fire fighter without air
- Entrapment/structural collapse
- Overtaken/injured by fire
- Fall through floor/roof/below grade
- Collapse/medical emergency/no entrapment

15. Develop the appropriate Rescue Plan, following this procedure, (and not limited to):

- Conduct a risk/benefit analysis.
- Determine the number of missing fire fighters and their last known location.
- Determine the entrance used by the missing fire fighters.
- Determine the RIT’s entry/direction into the incident area.
- Analyze the problem and determine which rescue tools might be best suited.
16. Implementation of the Rescue Plan as approved and coordinated by the Incident Commander/Operations Section Chief
   - Start rescue efforts toward the missing fire fighters' last known location.
   - If it is safe to do so, consider PPV if not already done. This must be coordinated with direction from Incident Command. Desired outcomes will be to improve visibility, improve the atmosphere and confine fire spread.
   - Place RIT Powerflares/Glow Sticks at an entry point
   - Follow standard search procedures (Left hand, Right hand)
   - Use RIT SearchLines (if appropriate)
     - (Mainline - 200ft. c/w rings)
     - (Searchline - 50 ft.)

RIT Kit

A RIT kit is on Rescue 1 and Rescue 7. The kit contains tools specifically assigned for the RIT. See each Apparatus Equipment List for details.

Additional Equipment other than assigned RIT EQUIPMENT

Medical Equipment
   - FR kit
   - O2 kit
   - AED
   - Burn kit
   - Charged hose line (from a secondary water source if practicable)
   - 2 - 500 watt flood lamps for night operations
   - Mechanical forcible entry tools, such as a chain saw, reciprocating saw,
   - Ladder complement
   - Apartment pack for high-rise incidents
   - 1 - 10 tonne jack

References

- Incident Command Procedures SOP, Chapter 08, Incident Command [REDMS Doc. No. 2057028]
Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments - REDMS Doc. No. 3106592

- RFR RIT Leader Checklist – REDMS Doc. 2895573
- RIT Master File Plan Training – REDMS Doc. 2933619
- WorkSafeBC Occupational Health & Safety Regulation, Section 31.23

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**Note:** This SOP has been reviewed to determine if any City of Richmond Policies apply. None were found at last review date.