

Hiawatha Fire & Rescue

Policy 404
Occupational Health and safety
Rapid Intervention Team (RIT Teams)
5/25/2001

This policy outlines the actions taken when responding to an incident as the Rapid Intervention Team

Purpose

1. The purpose of a Rapid Intervention Team is to be immediately available to assist any emergency services personnel who become trapped or who need any other type of emergent assistance.

Response

1. When dispatched as a Rapid Intervention Team to any incident, response will be in Rescue 281. If 281 is unavailable response will be in Engine 284.
2. All personnel responding to an incident as a Rapid Intervention Team shall be "Truckie" certified. When possible only Firefighters with EMT certification shall be assigned as the Rapid Intervention Team. If EMTs are not available, a Rapid Intervention Team shall consist of a minimum of at least two EMTs with Firefighters acting as the remaining team members. When possible a Rapid Intervention Team shall respond with a minimum of 5 members.

Position

1. The officer responsible for the Rapid Intervention Team shall, upon arrival, report to and remain at the command post or near the Incident Commander, unless directed otherwise by the incident commander.
2. The entire Rapid Intervention Team shall remain in close proximity to the command post / Incident Commander. The Rapid Intervention Team shall remain within a verbal contact distance from the Incident Commander allowing them to be readily deployed.

Duties

1. The Rapid Intervention Team shall "stand fast", intact as a unit, ready to take immediate action as directed by the Incident Commander. Avoid involvement in any other fire ground activities unless directly assigned by the Incident Commander or Safety Officer.
2. While "standing fast", the team shall determine the location and availability of ground ladders for future use. They shall also determine the position of EMS personnel and EMS equipment at the scene. The driver and exterior firefighter shall be available to position and operate any ladder.
3. The Rapid Intervention Team shall maintain in a state of constant readiness. Portable radios shall be monitored for any indications of members in distress.

Tools

1. Full turnout gear with SCBA
2. Portable radio
3. 2 Spare SCBA cylinders, one of which may be the RIT pack located on 281 (for rescue)
4. Forcible entry tools (axe and halligan tool – THE IRONS)
5. Portable saws (chain and K-12)
6. Search Rope
7. Rescue lifeline
8. Flashlights (hand lanterns)
9. Stokes basket

Communication

1. The Rapid Intervention Team shall operate on SEARCH AND RESCUE frequency, on portable radios
2. The Rapid Intervention Team officer shall monitor all other fire ground frequencies.
3. "MAY DAY" is the radio distress signal.

Restrictions

1. The Rapid Intervention Team may not be used to provide relief for operating units until the fire has been declared "under control". The Incident Commander should

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- anticipate this need and have staff other than the Rapid Intervention Team available for this purpose.
2. The Rapid Intervention Team should not be used for firefighting activities. If the Incident Commander directs this, additional Rapid Intervention Teams shall be formed to respond to any “distress” situations that arise.