

TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT
CHAPTER 2: STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

Part 1: Response Guidelines

Subject: Rapid Intervention Team

Page 1 of 7

Effective Date: 01/22/07

Section: 2-1-36

Revised Date:

- 36.01 Purpose. To provide an operational guideline for the fire ground procedures and responsibilities of the Rapid Intervention Team.
- 36.02 Goal. To operate in the safest manner possible in the mitigation of any emergency incident where a firefighter becomes lost, trapped, injured, or disoriented.
- 36.03 Definitions.
- A) Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH): An atmospheric concentration of any toxic, corrosive or asphyxiant substance that poses an immediate threat to life or would cause irreversible or delayed adverse health effects or would interfere with an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.
 - B) Initial Rapid Intervention Team (IRIT): A back-up team consisting of at least two members wearing self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) that are positioned outside of the hazard area during the initial stages of an incident.
 - C) Initial Stages of an Incident: The opening period of a potentially dangerous incident during which tasks are performed by the first arriving personnel and apparatus, with only one team operating in the IDLH environment.
 - D) Personnel Accountability Report (PAR): A radio or other method of communication by which command contacts teams to ensure all of their members are accounted for.
 - E) Rapid Intervention Team (RIT): As the incident expands in size and/or complexity, the incident commander shall assign a dedicated rapid intervention team, in addition to the back-up team. The RIT is a group of trained firefighters and officers with equipment who are assembled to rescue a lost, trapped, injured, or disoriented firefighter.
- 36.04 The Initial Rapid Intervention.
- A) The Initial Rapid Intervention Team (IRIT) shall be assembled at any structure fire, or incident where an IDLH environment exists.

Subject: Rapid Intervention Team

Date: 01/22/07

Page: 2 of 7

- B) The IRIT should consist of a minimum of two members in full turnout gear with SCBAs. The IRIT should have at minimum a charged backup (secondary attack) hose line, and some basic hand tools. The IRIT should assemble at the point where the attack crew made entry.
- C) If the hazard to life or health is not immediately mitigated, and as soon as enough personnel have arrived on scene a dedicated Rapid Intervention Team shall be formed. Upon the formation of the dedicated Rapid Intervention Team the Initial Rapid Intervention Team will be referred to as the backup team.

36.05 Qualifications for Rapid Intervention Team Members.

Each member of the Rapid Intervention Team shall:

1. Be an experienced firefighter.
2. Experienced in extrication, search and rescue, rope skills, building construction, and the incident command system.
3. Have completed an established Rapid Intervention Training program.
4. Stay proficient on the necessary skills.

36.06 Assembling the Rapid Intervention Team on Scene.

- A) A Rapid Intervention Team shall be assembled whenever there is a confirmed working structure fire. A RIT shall also be established for any incident where there is an immediate danger to life or health (IDLH), or any incident deemed necessary by the incident commander.
- B) The assembled team should consist of a minimum of four members in full turnout gear with SCBAs. One member should be designated as the team leader who is in charge of the team's operation. Larger incidents may require more than one RIT. If the original team is put to work, a replacement team(s) will need to be established immediately. If there are not enough personnel on scene, calling for mutual aid should be considered.

36.07 Team Staging.

- A) The Rapid Intervention Team shall assemble near, but not directly at the command post, so that visual contact can be made with the incident commander. The team should also stage so that they have visual access to at least two sides of the structure. The team should stage with the necessary tools (see RIT Equipment), and let the incident commander know when they are in place.

Subject: Rapid Intervention Team

Date: 01/22/07

Page: 3 of 7

36.08 RIT Equipment.

The team shall assemble the following equipment (at a minimum):

- Rapid Intervention Bag
 - o RIT SCBA with spare face piece
 - o Rescue webbing
 - o Wire cutters
 - o Tin snips
- Radios (minimum of 2)
- Hand lights (minimum of 2)
- Thermal Imaging Camera
- Search Rope
- Rescue rope and carabiners
- Halligan tool with flat head axe (Irons)
- Hook
- Chain saw
- Attic Ladder

NOTE: Exact tool requirements will depend on the type of building construction.

Other possible equipment

- Air bags
- Hydraulic tools
- Additional lighting
- Additional SCBA units
- Additional forcible entry tools
 - o Bolt cutters
 - o Sledgehammers
- Saws and other cutting tools
 - o Wood and metal blades
 - o Battery operated saws
- Cribbing
- Stokes basket
- Backboard
- EMS bag

36.09 Rapid Intervention Responsibilities (but not limited to).

Once the team has assembled with the primary equipment, the team shall:

1. Perform a size-up of the building.
2. Position ground ladders for egress.

3. Monitor radio communications, listening for "Mayday" calls.

Subject: Rapid Intervention Team

Date: 01/22/07

Page: 4 of 7

4. Monitor changing fire ground conditions.
5. Assist with accountability by writing down the location of interior crews.
6. Perform 360 walkarounds every 15-20 minutes to continually assess fireground conditions.
7. Expand egress openings where necessary.

36.10 Roles of Command.

Command should assemble a RIT right away when there is a confirmed working fire, or any incident where there is an IDLH. Any time an emergency occurs, such as a flashover, backdraft, collapse, or when members are evacuated out of the building, Command should conduct a personnel accountability report (PAR). If a member is thought to be missing, Command shall:

1. Check with other members to see if they have seen the missing member, and obtain information from the missing firefighter's crew.
2. Provide the RIT with the following pertinent information:
 - a. Who is the member
 - b. What was their assignment
 - c. Where were they last seen
 - d. What is the member's approximate air supply
3. Once the RIT has been deployed, Command is responsible for getting the additional resources that the team requests.

36.11 Deploying the RIT.

1. The team leader should contact Command to let him/her know that the RIT will be making entry.
2. Teams that are assigned to other tasks should continue to work on those tasks unless ordered otherwise by Command.
3. All apparatus and portables, with the exception of the Incident Commander and the RIT, should be moved off the radio channel of the missing firefighter(s). Do not ask the missing firefighter(s) to change channels.
4. RIT must use the accountability system when making entry.
5. RIT should enter the structure with the basic equipment.
6. RIT should enter at the quickest, closest, and safest entry point, based on the perceived location of the missing firefighter.
7. RIT should deploy a search line.
8. RIT should keep in continual contact with the missing firefighter.

Subject: Rapid Intervention Team

Date: 01/22/07

Page: 5 of 7

36.12 RIT Designations and Crew Assignments.

1. The RIT shall be referred to as RIT 1.
2. The RIT will have the capability of dividing up into two crews. If this is done the radio designations will be RIT 1A and RIT 1B.
3. The RIT shall enter the structure with the minimum equipment outlined below.

Rapid Intervention Team 1 – Crew Assignments	
Rapid Intervention Team 1A	Rapid Intervention Team 1B
<u>Officer</u> Leads crew and makes progress reports to the Incident Commander. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Thermal Imaging Camera- Radio- Hand light	<u>Firefighter 2 – Search Rope</u> Tasked with deploying the search rope. Assists with air change over. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Halligan Hook- Search Rope- Radio
<u>Firefighter 1 – Extrication</u> Tasked with forcible entry, and freeing/extricating the downed member. Assists with firefighter removal (head). <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Irons (Flathead Axe, Halligan)- Life Safety Rope	<u>Firefighter 3 – Air</u> Tasked with getting the downed member air. Assists with firefighter removal (feet). <ul style="list-style-type: none">- RIT Bag- Hand light
<u>Team Responsibilities</u> Team 1A is tasked with forcible entry and leading the search for the downed member. Once the downed member is located Team 1A is responsible for freeing him/her, and devising the exit strategy.	<u>Team Responsibilities</u> Team 1B is tasked with assessing the downed member, getting him/her air (if needed), and packaging him/her for removal.

4. The RIT Officer has the ability to change crew and tool assignments if he/she deems it necessary to do so.
5. Once RIT is deployed the Incident Commander will establish a second RIT, which will be designated RIT 2.
6. RIT 2 will be structured similarly, but will bring special equipment if requested by RIT 1. If no special equipment is requested then RIT 2 will enter with the minimum equipment.

Subject: Rapid Intervention Team

Date: 01/22/07

Page: 6 of 7

36.13 Performing the Search for the Missing Firefighter(s):

1. RIT should search the area/floor where the missing firefighter(s) are perceived to be located first.
2. RIT should be alert for:
 - a. Activated PASS alarms.
 - b. SCBA bells.
 - c. Equipment being struck against a wall or floor.
 - d. Verbal calls for help.
 - e. Breathing or moaning sounds.
 - f. Flashlight beams.
 - g. Equipment that might have been jettisoned by the missing firefighter(s).
3. A thermal imaging camera should be used if available.
4. RIT should always deploy a search rope when searching a building.

36.14 Locating the Missing Firefighters(s).

When the missing firefighter(s) is located RIT should:

1. Secure the search rope to the missing firefighter.
2. Turn off the missing firefighter's PASS alarm.
3. Notify Command that the firefighter has been located, and provide the position in the structure being as specific as possible.
4. Check breathing
 - a. If the firefighter is not breathing and not trapped, he/she should be removed as quickly as possible.
 - b. If the firefighter is breathing, the air supply level on his/her SCBA cylinder should be checked.
5. If the air supply is low, provide a replacement SCBA using the existing face piece, if it is intact.
6. Assess if the firefighter is trapped. If so, advise command.
7. If the firefighter is trapped and additional equipment is needed, the initial RIT should call for the secondary RIT to bring the needed equipment.
8. If the firefighter must be abandoned temporarily, activate his/her PASS alarm, leave the secondary SCBA, and leave the search rope attached to him/her so the next team can find him/her.

Subject: Rapid Intervention Team

Date: 01/22/07

Page: 7 of 7

36.15 Removing the Missing Firefighter(s):

1. The RIT should remove the firefighter(s) using whatever equipment and techniques are necessary.
2. The RIT should remove the firefighter(s) through the quickest and safest egress.
3. RIT should make periodic location and progress reports to the Command.
4. Command should have EMS waiting when RIT exits the structure.
5. Once RIT has finished, they should be evaluated by EMS, and given no further assignments.

36.16 Disbanding the RIT:

For any incident where a RIT was established, the team should remain in place until disbanded by Command. This should not occur until it has been confirmed that the safety hazards have been eliminated, or the incident is completely terminated.