

Rapid Intervention Crews (RIC)

PURPOSE:

To establish a formal process for the assignment and deployment of Rapid Intervention Crew or crews (RIC), which are on-scene crews properly equipped, positioned and prepared to take immediate steps to locate and rescue trapped or missing firefighters. This procedure ensures compliance with the OSHA two-in two-out requirement.

SCOPE:

This procedure shall apply to all incidents at which an IDLH atmosphere or potential IDLH atmosphere is present. Anytime crews are operating in a "hazard zone" a RIC team shall be established outside of the hazard zone.

PROCEDURES:

General

Initial Rapid Intervention Crew (IRIC)

An IRIC team consists of members of the first-in company to the scene of a real or potential IDLH atmosphere. To meet the minimum OSHA standards and to ensure a basic level of safety to personnel operating in the hazard zone, two members of the crew may enter the hazard zone while two members of the crew remain outside of the hazard zone to provide for the immediate rescue of lost or trapped members. Typically as an example, the officer and the junior firefighter will make entry into the hazard zone while the engineer and the senior firefighter remain outside as the IRIC. In addition, cross-trained ambulance/rescue personnel or an additional company may be assigned IRIC by the first in company.

IRIC can be suspended in situations that fall under the exemptions listed in OSHA **29 CFR 1910.134**. OSHA recognizes deviations to regulations (and IRIC) in an emergency operation where immediate action is necessary to save a life. For fire department employers, initial attack operations must be organized to ensure that adequate personnel are at the emergency scene prior to any interior attack at a structural fire. If initial attack personnel find a **known** life hazard situation where immediate action could prevent the loss of life, deviation from the two-in/two-out standard may be permitted, as an exception to the fire department's organizational plan.

The members assigned to IRIC may be involved in operations outside of the hazard zone as long as they are able to leave their assignment to conduct firefighter rescue, when and if it becomes necessary. The incident commander should make it a priority to transition from IRIC to a full RIC team as soon as resource availability allows.

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- a. A RIC team shall consist of a minimum of 4 personnel, including one officer. Whenever possible, an intact fire company should be assigned as the RIC crew.
- b. The RIC shall be established by command on all scenes that involve any of the following:
 - Offensive or defensive fire operations beyond the incipient phase.
 - Hazardous Materials Incidents (IDLH, potential IDLH, or unknown atmosphere).
 - Trench Rescue.
 - Confined Space Rescue.
 - All other scenes, determined by Command, that have a significant risk.

Assignment of the RIC

- a. Command shall establish a RIC within the initial first alarm assignment by assigning one of the engine or truck companies.
- b. The assignment of the RIC eliminates the need to maintain an IRIC crew.
- c. The RIC team shall be given the designation of RIC followed by their company identifier (e.g. RIC 211).
- d. Multiple RIC's should be assigned at working incidents where a single team cannot set-up close enough to provide a rapid rescue for each crew working in the hazard area(s). This could include operations at large buildings with remote entry points or a high-rise building with crews operating on several floors and or from several stairwells.
- e. Once Command assigns multiple RICs, a RIC Group shall be assigned.
- f. Air monitoring in the RIC staging area should be done when crews are staged inside a building or area that has the potential of having an IDLH atmosphere.

RIC Staging Location(s)

- a. Upon arrival, the RIC officer shall report to the Incident Commander (IC), or as directed by the IC to the RIC Group if established, to be briefed on the location and

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ID of operating units. Command may select the staging location or direct the RIC officer to recommend the location for approval by Command.

- b. The RIC(s) shall be set up outside the building or hazard area, in a location that provides the best access to entry points used by crews operating in the building or hazard area.
- c. On multistory buildings, the RIC(s) shall be staged one story below the fire floor, or the closest lower floor or location that provides a safe area for rapid and unobstructed access to the crews operating on the fire floor.
- d. Considerations should include initial entry points, remote entry points, secondary egress points, hazards, building construction, and the size and layout of the building.

RIC Team - Initial Actions

- a. The RIC officer shall review the building features and available floor plans and pre-fire plans. The remaining crew shall place their tools and equipment at the RIC staging area. There are three levels of RIC tool staging depending on incident size and complexity:

LEVEL I - (residential fires, small geographic area, minimal number of crews in hazard zone)

- RIC bag with Spare SCBA
- Axe & Halligan (Irons)
- Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC)
- Hand lights
- Search Rope

LEVEL II - (apartment, hotel, or school facilities, larger area, multiple crews (3-4) in the hazard zone)

- In addition to level I tools
- Spare SCBA bottles
- Chain saw(s) and/or circular saw(s)
- AJAX tool
- Hurst cutters and spreaders

LEVEL III - (large commercial/industrial, or high-rise facilities, large or spread out area of operations, several crews (5+) in the hazard zone.

- In addition to level II tools

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- TRT team
 - Building shoring equipment
 - Air bags
 - Other tools as necessary
- b. Once the tools are in place, the complete crew shall conduct a 360 of the building noting the building layout to include locations of doors and windows, unit and hose line placement, secondary egress points and crew entry points.
- c. The RIC shall establish secondary means of egress for crews operating inside, if not already completed, and report to command the specific location. Command shall then broadcast the locations on the radio for all to hear.
- d. The RIC may be assigned additional duties as long as their immediate availability to be deployed is not jeopardized (Example: controlling utilities, raising ladder for egress, etc.).

RIC Deployment & Rescue Operations (Mayday Event)

- a. A RIC shall be deployed by command, anytime a Mayday event is declared. Anytime a RIC is deployed, Command shall request an additional alarm assignment, and assign a RIC Group Supervisor.

If the Incident Commander receives a "Mayday" transmission from a firefighter or loses contact with a crew, the Incident Commander will immediately request a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) of all crew operating on the fireground. If a crew or a firefighter cannot be contacted, they are considered lost. If the disoriented firefighter(s) can be reached via radio have them transmit a "**LUNAR**" :

Location- "B side, outside wall"

Unit- "Engine 121"

Name/s- "Firefighter John Doe"

Assignment/Air- "Interior Search Team – 900psi"

Reason/Resources- "near a door, bring forcible exit tools" (low air, lost, trapped, medical, etc.)?

- b. Command shall evaluate the complexity of the incident including both the ongoing operations and the Mayday event and take the following actions as deemed appropriate:
- Command shall request any additional or specialized resources needed to control the incident, in addition to the automatic 2nd alarm (or greater alarm) initiated at the onset of the Mayday event.

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NOTE: A dispatcher will not be monitoring the RIC channel, and communications should flow through the RIC Group Supervisor to the command post.

- Command shall assign all activated RIC's to the RIC channel (Channel 16). Anytime a RIC is moved off the fire ground channel, the RIC Group Supervisor will be responsible to monitor the RIC channel as well as the Fireground Channel and communicate appropriate information across both frequencies.
 - Command shall replace the deployed RIC with another RIC to support any ongoing operations that cannot be suspended and to support the deployed RIC.
- c. Command shall establish a ready and waiting ambulance capable of rapid transport, which will be assigned to the RIC Group.
- Assign one Rescue for each missing or endangered firefighter.
- d. The RIC Group Supervisor shall immediately meet with the Incident Commander to receive specific direction and information to include:
- Name of firefighter(s) in trouble, to include their unit IDs.
 - Details known about the emergency that created the Mayday.
 - Last known location and assignment of firefighter(s) in trouble. **Remember, the closest point to the downed firefighter(s) may not be via their initial entry point.**
 - Fire/Incident size-up (where the fire is and where it's going)
 - Hazards and structural stability.
 - Confirm RIC radio assignment (confirm everyone on the team makes the change to the alternate radio channel).
- e. The RIC will identify the best-known location of the downed firefighter, or last known location of the missing firefighter and notify the backup RIC, and then enter the structure with the appropriate equipment to affect the rescue.
- f. The RIC will provide regular updates to command, or the RIC Group Supervisor, if established, as to their movements, conditions encountered within the building and completion of the following benchmarks.

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- Locate the lost, downed, trapped or missing firefighter.
 - Place the firefighter(s) on air (if not already on air).
 - Remove the firefighter(s) from the building or hazardous area.
- g.** The RIC will utilize standard search techniques (right-hand search, left-hand search, search ropes or hose lines) to establish their exit route as they move through the building, even when current conditions provide for adequate visibility.
- h.** All RICs will be deployed with a TIC
- i.** The back-up RIC(s) will review and observe the movements of the RIC team operating on the interior and any other information available in preparation for entering the building to assist or replace the first team.
- j.** The RIC Group Supervisor may assign additional resources to one or more of the RIC's to support their rescue efforts.

The IC shall announce when returned to normal operations. Dispatch will respond and make a general announce of "return to normal or routine operations".