



## Elgin Fire Department

Operations

Safety – Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)

Policy # 2023.02

Issued: 12/16/05

**Subject:** Safety – Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)

**Purpose:** This policy establishes the department's criteria and procedures for Rapid Intervention Teams. This policy is intended to meet the intent of NFPA 1561 and OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134.

**Scope:** This policy applies to all uniformed personnel of the Elgin Fire Department

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### Definitions:

#### Immediately Dangerous To Life Or Health (IDLH)

An atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

#### Initial Rapid Intervention Crew (IRIC)

A temporary team of at least two firefighters on standby outside the structure to provide assistance or rapid rescue, if needed. **An IRIC is only intended as a temporary, stand-by crew and is not intended for long term assignment where a formal Rapid Intervention Team should be assigned.**

#### Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)

A team of at least three (3) firefighters on standby outside the structure to provide assistance or rapid rescue, if needed.

#### Level 1 PPE

Department issue fire fighting boots, bunker pants, coat, hood, helmet, gloves, and SCBA.

### Philosophy

The Elgin Fire Department responds to incidents that present the potential for high risk to firefighter safety. This policy identifies the requirements and operation of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT). A RIT is a team of at least three (3) firefighters on standby outside the structure to provide assistance or rapid rescue, if needed. A RIT is intended to replace the IRIC after the first few minutes of the incident.

To facilitate this assignment, an additional company shall be assigned to confirmed structure fires and other significant incidents upon the order of the Battalion Chief or Incident Commander. This shall be accomplished by upgrading the alarm to a "Working Fire".

This additional company will have the pre-designation of RIT, however the IC may assign RIT to a different company based on the needs of the incident. When it is determined that the additional company is not needed at the scene, it shall be returned immediately.

**If the company responding with the pre-designation of RIT is staffed with only two (2) personnel they shall notify the IC while en-route of this status. The IC shall assign at least one (1) additional person to this company to ensure a minimum of a three (3) person RIT team.**

## **Procedure**

### Establishment of RIT

The Incident Commander (IC) shall establish a RIT at any incident where personnel are required to operate in an IDLH and other incidents that present a high risk. The RIT shall either replace or include the personnel from the Initial Rapid Intervention Crew (if previously established). The number, size and location of RIT teams at the scene should be flexible based on the incident's size and complexity. After evaluating the scene the IC shall provide one or more RIT teams based on the risk presented.

### Reporting to the scene

En-route, potential RIT teams shall monitor the FD OPS channel(s) to begin gathering information on the incident. Upon arrival, companies designated or assigned to the RIT function will bypass staging and report directly to the Incident Commander.

The RIT shall report to the Incident Commander in Level 1PPE and with basic tools and equipment based on an initial size up of the building and consistent with the RIT team checklist (vehicle dash card). Equipment shall be staged on a tarp in an area most readily accessible to potential rescues.

The RIT officer will meet face-to-face with the Incident Commander to receive a briefing on the incident. The briefing should include the following information:

- What is the Incident Action Plan (offensive or defensive)
- Significant events that have occurred
- How long crews have been operating in SCBA
- Location(s) of crews
- Other resources responding
- View of tactical worksheet

## Scene Size Up

The RIT is expected to perform an initial and on-going size up. RIT size up should be based on firefighter survival; on what may cause firefighters to be trapped, lost or become missing inside the structure, and how RIT can facilitate their escape or rescue.

Structure size up should include:

- Complete 360 degree walk around when possible
- Identifying hazards that will block or slow firefighter building evacuation
- Building construction, size, and occupancy
- Placement of windows and doors
- Placement of high security devices such as burglar bars
- Fireground tactics being used

## RIT activation

RIT shall be activated at any time a firefighter(s) is reported to be lost, trapped, or unaccounted for. The RIT shall deploy from the known or suspected last location of the firefighter(s) in distress with appropriate tools and equipment for the situation. The IC shall initiate actions consistent with policy #2023.04, Lost/Trapped Firefighters.

## Primary Tasks

The RIT shall be responsible for the following primary tasks:

- Scene size up
- Assemble minimum equipment at primary entry point
- Monitor radio and maintain contact with IC for quick response
- Assess where firefighters are working in structure and any special tasks assigned
- If situation dictates, open or cause to be opened any exit that is locked, blocked or non-existent

The RIT may complete additional activities providing it supports their primary tasks. These tasks shall not include situations requiring direct entry into the IDLH environment or impacting the RIT officers ability to focus on the status of interior operations. Task assignment shall take into account that the RIT should not be fatigued at any time.

By the order of: *Michael W Falene*  
Fire Chief

Revised: 12/16/05



## **Rapid Intervention Team**

### **Required Equipment**

Set of irons  
Sledge or maul  
Search rope  
Hand lights  
Thermal Imaging Camera  
SCBA with facepiece **or**  
RIT Pack  
8' or 10' pike pole  
Salvage tarp for staging

**Stage required equipment at primary access entry**

### **Additional Equipment**

Portable saws  
Oxygen / EMS equipment  
Stokes basket  
Extra SCBA cylinders  
Webbing  
Ground ladder (24')  
*Additional equipment as determined by sizeup*

### **Response to LOST/TRAPPED firefighter**

- Verify to IC on fireground channel entry location and PAR
- Bring equipment for rescue and victim access
- Progress to IC as needed (Rescue Sector responsibility)
- Locate, assess & remove trapped firefighter

### **Assignment**

Monitor radio enroute

Advise staging of unit # and go to incident

Take required equipment to primary entry point

Briefing from Command

Size-up scene

Prepare for Primary Tasks

Complete secondary tasks as indicated

Rescue Sector Officer will coordinate when assigned

**Designation: RESCUE SECTOR**