

27. Rapid Intervention Team

27.1 Purpose

To Standardize the training response, responsibilities, equipment and operations of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT), to be known as the South Wall Fire and Rescue Rapid Intervention Team, for the purpose of rescuing and or assisting firefighters in distress or trapped in situations at an emergency incident.

27.2 Overview

The safety of firefighters at an incident is the highest priority. The RIT provides firefighters a level of security and safety through highly trained, fully equipped personnel immediately available to react and respond with the primary and sole purpose to locate, assist and rescue injured or trapped firefighters.

27.3 Scope

The RIT guidelines are created to provide the District with a viable, consistent means of identifying the requirements for and operations of a RIT. It shall be the responsibility of the Chief or his designee to administer the guidelines in a consistent manner to ensure that their intents and purposed are achieved.

27.4 Procedure

When the South Wall Fire Rescue Company is requested for a RIT assignment, it is preferred that only one piece of apparatus will respond to the scene of the emergency, this crew will consist of no less than four trained and fully equipped firefighters. No RIT response shall occur unless the minimum number of qualified firefighters is available. Non-RIT certified members may assist the RIT crew as needed and determined by the Officer in Charge. The Officer in Charge shall be the Senior Ranking RIT member. Due to firefighters responding from two different stations, a telephone will be used to communicate the status of their respective firefighter crews. This procedure will be completed in order to pick the most aggressive and experienced crew to respond as the RIT incident. Any other equipment shall be at the disposal of the FAST unit and should be requested by the FAST IC.

A. Personnel: At a minimum, RIT members shall possess the following qualifications:

1. Three Years (3) firefighting experience once SCBA certified
2. NJ Firefighter 1 certification
3. Level One NJ Incident Management certification
4. Advanced SCBA
5. Confined Space Awareness
6. HAZMAT Awareness and Operations
7. Rapid Intervention Awareness
8. Rapid Intervention Operations (Approved by the Chief)
9. Building Collapse
10. CPR/DEFIB/First Responder

To remain qualified, RIT members must attend a minimum of 6 out of 12 previous RIT drills. These RIT drills are to be held the last Monday of every month.

All RIT members shall have displayed blue reflective identifiers on their helmets.

B. Tools and Equipment: The equipment used by the RIT will vary greatly based on the dynamics of the fire scene. At a MINIMUM the RIT shall have the following available at all responses.

1. PPE and SCBA for ALL RIT members
2. Portable Radios
3. Hand Lights
4. RIT PACK
5. Search Rope
6. Rescue Rope bags
7. Saws
8. Ladders
9. Portable Lights
10. Thermal Imaging Camera
11. Forcible entry hand tools.
12. Stokes basket

Additional tools or specialized equipment may be needed based on the structure and conditions.

C. Operations

1. **TEAM:** A RIT shall consist of a minimum of four (4) trained and fully equipped firefighters. No RIT response shall occur unless the minimum number of qualified firefighters are available. Non-RIT certified members may assist the RIT crew as needed and determined by the Officer in Charge. The Officer in Charge shall be the Line Officer or senior ranking RIT member.

2. RIT Team Duties:

a. Officer in Charge

- Enroute to incident shall monitor fire scene radio communications to understand and assess incident and techniques being utilized.
- Check in the Incident Commander upon arrival at scene.
- If there is no Chief on scene it is the responsibility of the officer (or senior member of the RIT crew) to remain with the IC at the command post and relay information to his/her RIT members via radio.
- Identify the radio frequencies being used.
- Size up incident, secondary escape routes and safety evaluations.
- Remain in contact with the IC or South Wall's Officer at the command Post.

b. RIT Members:

- Determine the availability and readiness of all necessary equipment.
- Maintain a constant state of readiness.
- The RIT members will be staged according to the Officer in Charge and or IC that is advantageous to their entry into the structure.
- The RIT will place the necessary ground ladders in operation for anticipated use by that team or to provide safe avenues of escape for crews working.
- During the operation the members of the RIT will oversee operations for safety problems, (members working near electrical wires, icy conditions, structural evaluations, fire conditions.

The RIT functions will continue until the incident has concluded or the IC determines that the RIT is no longer needed at the incident.

The Officer in Charge shall be authorized to deviate from these guidelines when and where, in his or her professional experience and training, such deviations is warranted.