

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To establish uniform procedures for the assembly and deployment of a Rapid Intervention Crew.
- 1.2. To establish a standard guideline for Sonoma County fire personnel that satisfies the California OSHA Respiratory Protective Equipment regulation, specifically the requirements found in Title 8, CCR, Section 5144 g(3) and g(4) that address “Procedures for IDLH Atmospheres” and “Procedures for Interior Structural Firefighting”.
- 1.3. To develop a guideline that pertains to interior structure firefighting but also has scope in other activities where IDLH atmospheres exist.

2. REFERENCES

- 2.1. NFPA 1500-19, 6-5.1 – 6-5.6
- 2.2. 29 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) 1910.134, “OSHA’S FINAL RULE”
- 2.3. FIRESCOPE 910
- 2.4. Title 8, CCR, Section 5144, g(3) and g(4)

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1. **RAPID INTERVENTION CREW:** A minimum of three members of a fire company suitably equipped and trained to perform the rescue of a downed or trapped firefighter.
- 3.2. **RIC TACTICAL FREQUENCY:** Frequency assigned to the RIC for the purpose of uninterrupted communication between the IC and RIC crews.

- 3.3. **RIC CACHE:** Tools and equipment assembled for the RIC based on the assessment of the current and predicted situation. The RIC CACHE shall at least consist of a RIC checklist, forcible entry tools, hand lights, search rope or tag line (minimum 50'), a complete SCBA unit, an additional low pressure SCBA cylinder, a thermal imaging camera (if available), appropriate power saws, and other incident specific rescue equipment.
- 3.4. **PERSONNEL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT (PAR):** A systematic headcount of fire personnel.
- 3.5. **IDLH:** Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health; 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 environment.
- 3.6. **2 IN, 2 OUT:** OSHA regulation requiring that for interior structural firefighting, a buddy system for workers in an IDLH atmosphere and at least two standby personnel outside that atmosphere are necessary. An exception is allowed if a known rescue is to be performed.
- 3.7. **EMERGENCY TRAFFIC:** Phrase used to alert personnel of a significant fireground event.
- 3.8. **MAYDAY:** Mayday code is only for use when a firefighter or firefighters find themselves or others in a life threatening situation or are lost, trapped or missing during fireground operations. Mayday is not an emergency evacuation call. Airhorns do not initiate a Mayday. A Mayday is communicated by radio and or verbally.

4. POLICY

- 4.1. The IC shall establish a RAPID INTERVENTION CREW (RIC) on incidents that may warrant the need for immediate rescue of downed firefighters.
- 4.2. The RAPID INTERVENTION CREW will consist of a minimum of three members suitably equipped to effect rescue of trapped or downed firefighters.

- 4.3. A separate RESCUE TACTICAL FREQUENCY **may** be assigned to the Rapid Intervention Crew.
- 4.4. The Rapid Intervention Crew shall establish a RIC CACHE consisting of equipment and tools appropriate for the rescue of trapped or downed firefighters. This equipment is for rescue only and may not be used for other tasks until the incident is placed under control.

5. PROCEDURES

- 5.1. (Staffing) The RIC consists of at least three firefighters- one designated as crew leader- assigned by the Incident Commander and equipped with full personal protective equipment.
- 5.2. Large incidents that require multiple entry points may require additional RIC's or 2 Out at multiple entry points. Multiple RIC's should report to the appropriate Division Supervisor instead of the Incident Commander.
- 5.3. (Location at Incident) After assignment, the RIC leader will report in at the command post. The RIC will complete the applicable tasks as outlined on the RIC check sheet. When the required tasks are completed and the RIC cache location is established, the RIC leader shall maintain contact with the IC or assigned Division Supervisor during the incident.
- 5.4. An exception to 5.3 may occur during incidents in multi-story structures. In this case the RIC should be located in the same stairwell, one floor below the fire. The RIC leader will be in contact with the IC or assigned Division Supervisor by portable radio.
- 5.5. (Tasks) The primary task of the RIC is to respond to any report of firefighter distress. Generally, personnel in distress are in one of three situations:
 - 5.5.1 Unable to move by being trapped in debris, collapse, or other entanglement.
 - 5.5.2 Disoriented or lost in the building.
 - 5.5.3 Missing after a personnel accountability report.

- 5.6. Exact tasks and tool selection will vary from incident to incident based on building construction type, fire conditions, and building size. However, some minimum tasks will be completed at every incident where the RIC is active:
 - 5.6.1 Report in with the Incident Commander.
 - 5.6.2 Determine tactical frequency and monitor all radio traffic.
 - 5.6.3 Check all sides of the building for conditions and access.
 - 5.6.4 Deploy tool tarp at established location and assemble tool cache.
 - 5.6.5 Place escape ladder. An escape ladder will be placed even when another ladder is in place for operational purposes. An escape ladder will be raised to any building greater than one story. Two story structures will have an escape ladder raised to the floor above the fire or, if the fire is on the second floor, to a window adjacent to the fire. An escape ladder will always be raised to the roof, remote from the operating ladder, when firefighters are operating on the roof.
 - 5.6.6 Force, but do not open, doors remote to interior fire crews. Remove window bars, identify stairways and exits.
 - 5.6.7 Complete the collection of passports and deliver to the Command Post.
 - 5.6.8 Continuously monitor radio traffic, fire and building conditions, and crew condition, including crews in the rehab area.
 - 5.6.9 Request additional companies if necessary to fulfill RIC tasks.

- 5.7. (Activation) The RIC will be activated when either the Incident Commander, RIC Division Supervisor, or RIC Company Officer receives a radio message or personally observes a significant fireground event. Upon activation, radio traffic will be limited to emergency traffic only. A significant fireground event includes, but is not limited to:
 - 5.7.1 Actual or impending building collapse.
 - 5.7.2 Firefighter(s) lost, trapped, or unaccounted for on the fireground.
 - 5.7.3 Significant change in fire conditions.

- 5.8. PAR (personnel accountability report) shall be conducted immediately by the IC upon occurrence of a significant fireground event.

**Sonoma County Fire Chiefs'
Association Operations Section
SOG
Rapid Intervention Crew**

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**APPROVED BY PROCEDURE
Sonoma County Fire Chiefs**

- 5.9. Upon activation of RIC, the RIC will operate on a tactical Frequency designated by the IC. Redcom CRO will be advised of the RIC frequency.

**Sonoma County Fire Chiefs' Association
Operations Section
Rapid Intervention Company
Check Sheet**

- Report in with Incident Commander**
- Determine tactical frequency and monitor all radio traffic**
- Check all sides of building**
- Deploy tool tarp at step off point and assemble tool cache:**
 - 1) Forcible entry tools**
 - 2) Handlights**
 - 3) Tag line (minimum 50')**
 - 4) Rescue SCBA (complete)**
 - 5) Low pressure air cylinder (if applicable/available)**
 - 6) Thermal imaging camera (if available)**
 - 7) Appropriate power saws**
 - 8) Other incident specific rescue equipment**
- Place escape ladder- if required**
- Force- but do not open- doors remote to interior fire crews, remove window bars, and identify stairways and exits**
- Collect passports**
- RIC leader to maintain verbal contact with Incident Commander**
- Monitor radio traffic, fire conditions, and crew condition**
- Request additional companies if necessary to fulfill RIC tasks**