

Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)

303.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This document provides on-scene procedures for Rapid Intervention Team units operating on incidents requiring a RIT

Corresponding Policies:

Emergency Response
Fireground Accountability
Incident Management
Rapid Intervention/Two-in Two-out

The Euless Fire Department will follow the NEFDA RIT Guidelines

[See attachment: NEFDA RIT Guidelines](#)

303.2 FIRST FIVE MINUTES

The first arriving Euless Fire Department unit should contact Dispatch and provide the following information:

- Unit on-scene
- Initial scene size-up
- Unit assuming incident command (IC)
- Request for an initial RIT assignment together with any additional RITs required

#When practicable, the Incident Commander (IC) should assign a RIT group supervisor.

#As soon as practicable, the RIT group supervisor should perform a 360 assessment to identify exit and entrance obstacles for removal by the RIT team and areas to establish a means of escape including:

- Burglar bars and window guards.
- Visibly secured roll-up and steel doors.
- Locations for placement of ladders on all sides of the structure.
- Below-grade access points.

303.3 PROCEDURES

303.3.1 RESOURCE DEPLOYMENT

(a) Apparatus

1. Apparatus carrying RIT personnel should stage at a location that allows later-arriving units access to the scene, while allowing assigned personnel adequate access to tools and equipment for RIT operations.

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(b) Personnel

1. RIT personnel should be in full structural firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE) with a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). Each RIT member should have a portable radio. At least one member of the team should have a thermal imaging camera (TIC).
2. Except for the operations listed below and whenever practicable, the RIT should not be assigned to any duties that divert attention or resources away from their primary mission of responder rescue.
3. The RIT should consist of these positions and assignments:
 - RIT Group Supervisor
 - Team Leader
 - Navigation and air supply
 - Search and Rescue
 - Package and Removal

303.3.2 OPERATIONS

(a) Rapid Intervention Team

1. Upon arrival, the RIT should pull or assemble the RIT cache and report to the IC or RIT group supervisor for assignment. The RIT cache should include, but is not limited to:
 - TIC
 - Handlights
 - Extra SCBA or RIT pack for rescue
 - Extra full air bottles for RIT personnel
 - Rope and webbing
 - Saws
 - Hand tools for prying, forcing and access
 - Cribbing
2. When practicable, the RIT should take steps to remove barriers to structure access identified in the 360 assessment or discovered during fireground activity to enable quicker entry and exit. If softening the structure may effect fire behavior then the RIT should communicate its intentions to the IC or RIT group supervisor before taking these actions. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Removing burglar bars and window guards
 - Unlocking/forcing and controlling locked doors
 - Deploying ground ladders to provide additional points of entry and exit

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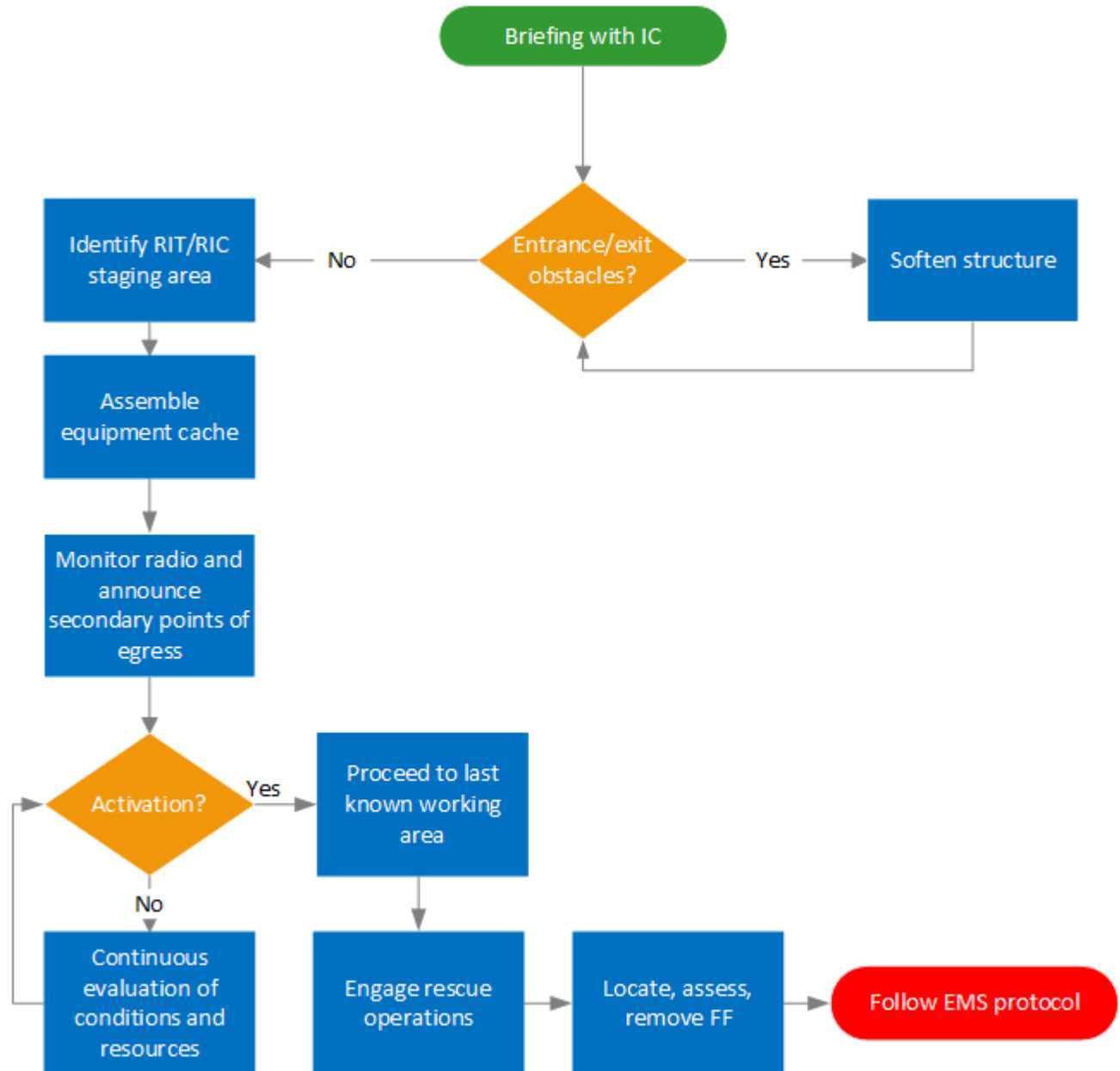
- Setting up or calling for additional scene lighting
- 3. The RIT should monitor fireground communications and the location and assignments of crews working on the fireground. The RIT should also observe fire and flowpaths.
- 4. RIT activation:
 - (a) Upon notification of a lost, trapped or injured firefighter, the RIT should be activated. The RIT assignment should be limited to locating, assessing and removing the firefighter who has become lost, trapped and/or injured.
 - (b) The RIT team leader should confirm activation with the IC or RIT group supervisor and based upon information provided by the IC or RIT group supervisor should:
 - Proceed with the RIT cache to the last known or suspected working area of the crew or firefighter needing rescue.
 - Engage in rescue operations.
 - Continually monitor any radio communications from the victim.
 - Communicate rescue activities and progress to the IC or RIT group supervisor.

303.4 UNIVERSAL PRACTICES

1. Tools and equipment assembled for the RIT should not be used by other fireground personnel.
2. If the RIT does not have a pre-assembled and designated equipment cache, the RIT should assemble tools and equipment from their own unit. Any additional tools or equipment required should be from apparatus not directly engaged in fireground operations to avoid stripping primary units of equipment needed for fireground operations.
3. When an on-scene RIT is activated for rescue, a second RIT should be assigned to the incident, if one is not on-scene.
4. When an on-scene RIT is activated, the IC should consider calling Dispatch and requesting a next alarm assignment to provide additional resources and personnel.

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303.5 PROCEDURE DECISION TREE



Attachments

NEFDA RIT Guidelines.pdf



Northeast Fire Department Association

Operations

Date Issued: 12/2009

Date Revised: 7/2010, 12/2013, 10/2016, 9/2017

Tactical Guidelines: Rapid Intervention Team

Approved by: _____

NEFDA President

I. Overview

This policy is intended to provide an outline for the formation and operation of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) or teams. This will give both team members, as well as command a basis for the operation and organization of the team(s)

II. Terminology

1. *IDLH Atmosphere*- Immediate Danger to Life and Health. An atmosphere which is dangerous to firefighters.
2. *IRIT*- Initial Rapid Intervention Team. This is utilized early in the incident when only one crew is working in the IDLH environment. The team shall consist of at least two personnel with proper PPE and SCBA donned.
3. *RIT*- Rapid Intervention Team (Formal). A formal RIT will be established as soon as possible. RIT should consist of at least three personnel with proper PPE and SCBA donned. Team size should be determined by considering structure size and construction. Team size and numbers should also reflect the number of personnel on the scene. The RIT should assemble proper tools.
4. *MAYDAY*- Notification that a firefighter is lost, trapped, or injured and needing rescue.
5. *Personnel Accountability Report (PAR)* - Roll call of assigned personnel. For a Company Officer or Team Leader, a PAR is a confirmation that all members assigned to their unit are accounted. For the Division/Group Supervisor, a PAR is an accounting for all crews assigned to their command.
6. *RIT Bag* - Bag containing air supply, mask, regulator, and RIT search rope. The air supply consists of a SCBA bottle (45 minute minimum) with a Universal RIT Connection (URC / UAC) and low pressure connections for Scott and MSA SCBA's.
7. *TIC* - Thermal Imaging Camera

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8. *RIT Search Rope* - The large area search rope is normally located in one end of the RIT Bag. It consists of 200' of Kevlar rope. The rope will be marked or have knots that represent that number of feet you have traveled on the rope. Each knot or marking will be equivalent to 20'. This definition does not affect search ropes that are carried by fire companies, only the search ropes carried in the RIT bag.
9. *Large Area Search Rope* - The large area search rope is normally located in one end of the RIT Bag. It consists of 200' of Kevlar rope. Every 20' there is a metal ring. After that ring is a number of knots. The number of knots represents that number of feet you have traveled on the rope. Each knot is equivalent to 20'. Direction of travel can be determined by the knots as well. If you have knots then ring, you are on your way out (RING OUT). If you have a ring and then knots you are on your way into the structure.
10. *PPE - Personal Protective Equipment* - That equipment designed to protect you personally.

III. Objective

The objective of RIT is to have a fully equipped rescue team, onsite, in a ready state, to immediately react and respond to the rescue of firefighters. A RIT should be established anytime firefighters are operating in an IDLH atmosphere.

IV. Policy

It is the policy of the Fire Department to establish and support RIT at any incident in which an IDLH atmosphere will be entered.

- A. RIT members will assume a state of readiness with appropriate PPE.
- B. RIT will initially report to the Command Post. The Incident Commander (IC) and initial RIT officer will determine the location of the team(s).
- C. RIT will consist of at least three personnel.
- D. If a 2nd Alarm is initiated to support ongoing firefighting operations (the incident is not under-control), the RIT shall consist of one TRT Company augmented with other crews to total at least seven (7) personnel (original RIT company, TRT company, Battalion Chief with responding TRT company).
- E. If the RIT officer determines that additional personnel are needed to fulfill the RIT responsibilities, they will contact Command and request the appropriate resources to report to RIT Group.

V. Command Responsibilities

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The Incident Commander is obligated to establish a RIT whenever personnel are operating in an IDLH atmosphere. RIT is not limited to this, and should be used whenever it will increase the overall safety of an incident.

- A. Command will appoint the appropriate number of personnel to RIT and support their needs.
- B. The number of RIT's should expand with the incident. The number of RIT's and the number of personnel on a RIT should be directly proportionate to the number of firefighters, the layout and the size of the structure.
- C. Command has the following options for use of RIT(s).
 - 1. To address visible hazards.
 - 2. To identify critical factors and apply appropriate risk/benefit analysis.
- D. When a RIT is activated, Command may consider using an alternate radio channel for suppression activities and keep the MAYDAY firefighter on the channel they called the mayday on.
- E. Command should form a separate RIT group upon a second alarm activation if not already established.
- F. NEFDA TRT activation should be considered when situations could require the need of specialized equipment to support potential rescue requirements.
- G. At least one additional alarm, with an ambulance, should be immediately requested upon activation of RIT.
- H. A PAR should be performed at RIT activation and upon completion of the RIT assignment.
- I. Additional RIT's must be formed and supported upon the activation of a RIT. Consideration should be given to calling for the additional heavy rescue.
- J. Command must realize that rescuing a firefighter is a labor intensive operation and should have the command structure, proper personnel and proper equipment in place before a Mayday event occurs.

VI. Rapid Intervention Team Responsibilities

- A. The responding Battalion Chief (RIT Group Supervisor) with the TRT Company officer shall report to Command for briefing. The RIT Group Supervisor shall establish a RIT Group Command Board and keep track of the incident and company assignments. If a "Mayday" is transmitted, he/she will run the RIT Group for Command.

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- B. Perform a scene size up. Determine challenges, points of entry, potential hazards and needed tools.
- C. Report findings of the walk around to RIT Group Supervisor and establish RIT staging location.
- D. Confirm that the utilities are secure.
- E. Retrieve equipment to include a RIT bag, TIC, along with scene and structure appropriate tools. Equipment should be assembled on the RIT tarp to indicate that they are dedicated for RIT use only.
- F. Coordinate with Command if additional resources are needed.
- G. Soften the structure by removing security bars or forcing doors. Coordinate the opening of doors and windows with Command and/or Operations. (Many times doors can be forced and then closed.)
- H. Divide the on-scene RIT personnel into two person teams (Team 1, Team 2, etc.). This increases speed and efficiency within the RIT Group.
- I. Develop a search plan as well as a rescue plan.
- J. Change air bottles or air packs if necessary to have compatibility within the teams.
- K. When activated the RIT should:
 - 1. Execute the search plan and communicate with the RIT Group Supervisor.
 - 2. Locate the crew or member. (Turn PASS device off for better communication.)
 - 3. Tie the RIT rope off to a substantial object.
 - 4. Assess the firefighter and the environment
 - 5. Trans fill air if needed
 - 6. Package firefighter for extrication (If you leave before another crew arrives, manually activate PASS.)
 - 7. Continually monitor individual RIT member's air supply
 - 8. Continually update the RIT Group Supervisor with CAN reports.

VII. Conclusion

Being assigned to RIT is a great responsibility. Be proactive and make RIT effective.