

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY RURAL FIRE BOARD  
GUIDELINES AND STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

**SUBJECT:** ESTABLISHING RIT

**PURPOSE:** The Fairfield County Fire Service is committed to providing for the safety of personnel operating in environments that are immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH). It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander to insure to the greatest degree possible that a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) be assigned where FCFS personnel are operating in a potential IDLH to provide emergency rescue if needed.

**GUIDELINES:**

- 1) Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)
- 2) The RIT shall be comprised of a minimum of two (2) firefighters. More RITs may be assigned as necessary by the IC to insure all interior operating personnel could be rescued as quickly and efficiently as possible if necessary.
  - a. When in position, RIT will communicate to the IC that RIT is in position and available.
  - b. Normal RIT position is Division A. However, RIT may position at a different location if a strategic advantage can be gained (i.e., quicker access to building point-of-entry).
  - c. RIT can be assigned other duties in the Warm Zone such as 360 degree size-up, securing utilities, horizontal ventilation, Division C forcible entry, etc., so long as the RIT members stay together and are immediately available for emergency deployment.
  - d. In the event of Interior Offensive Mode operations when IDLH exists, the IC may order a dry backup line to be pulled at the ready.
- 3) Minimum RIT Equipment required will include:
  - a. Handlight each member (on SCBA)
  - b. One Walkie-Talkie for each member (WT)
  - c. One forcible entry tool
  - d. One spare SCBA with mask
  - e. One guide rope suitable for size of building
  - f. Thermal Imager camera available

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4) RIT will preplan a position for quick access to operation area IDLH and be responsible for the following:

- a. Monitoring via radio location and nature of work by Interior Division
- b. Monitor exterior conditions
- c. Raise ladder(s) to exterior windows that may be necessary for rescue if other personnel are not available.

5) RIT Activation in the event of a trapped or lost firefighter(s):

- a. IC will establish last know location of trapped firefighter(s).
- b. IC will announce Rescue Mode operations.
- c. IC will insure operations focus on what may be necessary to protect lost firefighter(s).
- d. IC will conduct a rapid size-up and order RIT to advance only if it is reasonably safe to do so and the possibility of rescue exists.
- e. All non-essential radio operations will be disconnected except as related to RIT operations.
- f. If fire conditions warrant, RIT will be protected by a hose line at all times.
- g. If RIT enters and area IDLH with no visibility, a guide rope will be attached to a stationary object outside the IDLH .
- h. IC will order an additional RIT to cover the trapped firefighter(s) and activated RIT.
- i. IC will request / insure EMS on-scene presence.