

Subject:	RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM
Section:	PPG #4400.4
Chapter:	Operations
Effective Date:	1/29/03

1.0 POLICY

- 1.1 It shall be the policy of McLane/ Black Lake Fire Department to provide for the safety and welfare of members operating at emergency scenes through the establishment Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT) for the potential rescue of lost or trapped firefighters.
- 1.2 A RIT Team shall be established during interior structural fire operations that expose firefighters to a hazardous area.
- 1.3 A RIT Team should be considered when personnel are operating in positions or performing functions that would subject them to immediate danger of injury in the event of equipment failure or other sudden event.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **Positive Communication:** Contact maintained by visual, verbal, physical or electronic means.
- 2.2 **Rapid Intervention Team:** A designated and dedicated team of two or more equipped members, present outside of the hazard area, immediately available to rescue firefighters working inside the hazard area.
- 2.3 **Hazardous Area:** A particular event, circumstance or condition that may present an immediate danger of injury to a member of a fire department in the event of a structural collapse or equipment failure.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander to provide a RIT Team to assist or rescue members of a team working in the hazard area.

4.0 PROCEDURE

- 4.1** A RIT Team shall consist of at least two members and shall be available for rescue of a firefighter or at team if the need arises. RIT Teams shall be fully equipped with the appropriate PPE, SCBA and any specialized rescue equipment that might be needed given the specifics of the operations underway.

4.2 INCIDENT BRIEFING

- 4.3** When assigned, a RIT Team shall report to the Incident Commander (or their designee based upon the organization of the IMS structure) for a briefing on the incident. This briefing should include such information as location and assignment of crews and occupancy information.
- 4.4** At their assigned location, the RIT Team must closely monitor the tactical radio communications and be able to react immediately to a sudden emergency event involving firefighters in the hazard area.

4.5 CONDUCTING A SIZEUP

- 4.6** The RIT should conduct a size-up of the building or other incident scene features. Particular attention should be made of the following items:
- 4.6.1** Entrances and exits
 - 4.6.2** Access stairs
 - 4.6.3** Water Supply sources
 - 4.6.4** Location of specialized equipment (hose, ladders, air bags, extrication equipment, cribbing, jacks, ropes, lighting, power saws etc.)

4.7 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- 4.8** Crewmembers shall be in a ready state wearing full protective clothing and SCBA donned in the “ready state”. Additional required equipment include:
- 4.12.1** Portable radios (including 1 for the victim)
 - 4.12.2** Flathead axe & Haligan Tool (Irons)
 - 4.12.3** Portable hand lamps
 - 4.12.4** 150’ guide rope
 - 4.12.5** Hose line (evaluate availability, secure own line)
 - 4.12.6** Spare SCBA bottle with Mask/Hose.
 - 4.12.7** Green tarp for equipment staging
 - 4.12.8** Defibrillation Unit
- 4.13** For incidents other than structure fires, the protective clothing and equipment will be appropriate for the hazards. Additional equipment might include any combination of the following; distributor nozzle, ladders, hand and power saws, luminescent lights, utility straps or webbing, hydraulic jacks, rescue tool with attachments etc.

5.0 MISSING OR TRAPPED PERSONNEL

- 5.1** RIT should be reserved for immediate life-threatening situations, such as a firefighter trapped, injured, unaccounted for, or other critical situation(s). An absent member of any crew will automatically be assumed lost or trapped until otherwise determined to be safe.
- 5.2** The Company officers and/or team leaders must immediately report any absent members to their division/group supervisor, who in turn must immediately report to the Incident Commander.
- 5.3** Command Officers and/or team leaders should consider loss of radio contact to indicate a crew in trouble.
- 5.4** **ACTIVATION OF THE RIT TEAM**
- 5.5** Upon notification of a lost or trapped firefighter, the Incident Commander shall:
 - 5.5.1** Immediately initiate a roll call of companies assigned to duty in the immediate danger zone.
 - 5.5.2** Activate the Rapid Intervention Team, sending them to the last reported working area of the lost firefighter(s) to begin a search.
 - 5.5.3** Designate a Rescue Group Supervisor to supervise the rescue effort.
 - 5.5.4** Immediately replace the RIT with another company.
 - 5.5.5** Adjust on-scene strategies to prioritize search and rescue efforts.
- 5.6** **RADIO DESIGNATORS**
- 5.7** Companies assigned to the RIT function shall continue to use their current company designator.

6.0 REFERENCES

- 6.1** WAC 296-305-05001