

BEST OPERATING PRACTICE

PENNINGTON COUNTY FIRE SERVICE BOARD	SECTION: EMERGENCY OPERATIONS - FIRE SUBJECT: RAPID INTERVENTION	BOP#: FSB104 PAGE 1 of 4 DATE: 2/12/2018
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Disclaimer: All Best Practices are provided as a guide for departments by the Pennington County Fire Service Board. These are for general guidance and should be modified by each department based on their own individual rules or standard operating guidelines/policies. Each department within Pennington County is ultimately liable for its own operations and practices.

PREMISE: A standardized system for rescuing firefighters in distress is a necessary element of firefighting. Firefighting is an inherently dangerous activity and there is a need to have a dedicated crew for firefighters in distress. There should also be a standard way for command to handle these types of incidents.

PURPOSE: It is the purpose of this procedure to provide a layout for how to establish and use a Rapid Intervention Team. It should also provide a layout on how to handle an emergency situation at the command and firefighter level where firefighters are in distress.

SCOPE: This procedure applies to all fire department personnel engaged in emergency scene activities.

HISTORY: Original Release December 12, 2018

OPERATING PRACTICE:

1. DEFINITIONS:

- a. RIT- Rapid Intervention Team and RIC - Rapid Intervention Crew:
 - i. RIT and RIC are of the same definition but can be called by either name. For the purpose of Pennington County, RIC will be the standard term.
 - ii. Definition: A Rapid Intervention Crew is a team composed of three (3) or more certified firefighters whose sole responsibility is to rescue or assist any firefighter that is in distress.
- b. Incidents in which a RIC will be used are defined as- incidents where fire department personnel are involved in activities in an IDLH atmosphere - which include but not limited to:
 - i. Fires involving buildings in which firefighters are actively engaged in firefighting activities inside the hazard area,
 - ii. Hazardous materials incidents where firefighters are engaged in response activities in the hazard area,
 - iii. Specialized rescue incidents where firefighters are engaged in rescue operations. This can include swift water, ice rescue, confined space, etc.,
 - iv. Training evolutions when they are being conducted using live fire,
 - v. Any time deemed necessary by the on-scene incident commander.

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- c. Mayday and Emergency
 - i. Mayday - is the term used by firefighters in distress. A mayday is used when firefighter(s) are in immediate danger and need help.
 - ii. Emergency Traffic - is the term used on fire ground operations where there is an immediate need for information to get to all personnel working on the incident.
- d. PAR
 - i. PAR - Personnel Accountability Report. This is a report done by the IC or designee that requires all units working on the incident to report to the IC or designee that they have visual contact with their whole crew.
- e. CAN Report
 - i. CAN report is an acronym that stands for Conditions, Actions, and Needs. This is an acronym that is used in sizing up different situations in emergency incidents.

2. PRACTICES:

- a. Upon an incident meeting one of the requirements for the use of RIC defined above, a Rapid Intervention Crew will be designated by the IC or Safety Officer as soon as possible.
- b. The Rapid Intervention Crew will consist of 3 or more trained and certified firefighters. (No trainees or fire ground support personnel can be used in this position).
 - i. A RIC Officer shall be appointed to the RIC. They are a member of the RIC and are preferred to be a company officer level or above. This officer is in charge of the RIC operations, both prior to and during a RIC activation.
 - ii. The more complex an incident, the more complex the RIC needs to be. Example: Larger structures with more firefighters may need multiple RICs or a bigger group of firefighters for RIC operations. This can also include having multiple RICs in multiple locations.
- c. Duties of RIC
 - i. Stage close to the ingress and egress points to the fire building.
 - ii. Listen to the radio and have fire ground radio communications at all times.
 - iii. Stage equipment that might be needed and make it known it is RIC equipment so other responders do not use it.
 - iv. Be in full PPE and SCBA, ready to don face piece, or the proper PPE appropriate for the incident.

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- v. The RIC can perform other duties on the fire ground as long as they are still in a position for rapid deployment, if needed. Examples: putting up a ladder, door control, and flaking hose for the attack teams are supportive roles that can be abandoned if the need for RIC activation arises. However, the RIC team should retain a full air bottle at all times while not engaged in RIC functions.
- vi. Understanding the hazards and making a size-up of the scene is important for all RIC members to do. Standing in one spot is not doing a proper size-up.
 - 01. The RIC Officer/Senior member shall obtain a detailed briefing from the IC on the status and location of all assigned companies.
 - 02. The RIC company shall stay together, assume a ready state, in full PPE including SCBA and stage in an area that maximizes their effectiveness for deployment.
 - 03. The RIC members shall size up the structure, access points, and means of egress.
 - 04. The RIC Officer/Senior member shall brief the RIC Company on the access points, means of egress, status and location of assigned companies.
 - 05. The RIC Officer/Senior member shall monitor the assigned operations radio channel at all times. RIC may be assigned an operations channel of its own, prior to or upon deployment.
- d. RIC will need to rehab just like any other crew, even if they are not deployed. This is especially true in inclement weather.

3. DEPLOYMENT / OPERATIONS:

Once a "Mayday" or other information is transmitted that a firefighter is injured, lost, trapped, unaccounted for, or needs assistance:

- a. The IC shall request Emergency Radio Traffic and that radio talk be kept at a minimum.
- b. The IC will notify the dispatcher(s) that there has been a MAYDAY declared and to keep radio traffic to a minimum.
- c. The IC shall transmit a roll call of all personnel working at the incident.
- d. The IC will deploy the Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) to last reported location of the firefighter transmitting the May Day and notify the dispatcher(s) that the RIC has been deployed.
- e. The Rapid Intervention Crew (**RIC**) **shall never self-deploy.**
- f. If the original RIC is deployed, the IC will designate a second RIC team to be ready. The IC may consider an additional alarm request for personnel.

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- g. The RIC Company will use any and all resources available to find and remove the firefighter(s) transmitting the Mayday.
- h. Once the location of a firefighter in need of assistance the RIC shall transmit to the IC a size up of the situation (CAN Report) and request any further resources needed.
- i. In the event the firefighter in need of assistance cannot be removed immediately and the RIC has to exit, the RIC shall provide an air supply, radio and clearly mark the location.
- j. All other companies shall continue with their initial assignment unless ordered by the IC to assist the RIC in the rescue.
- k. The IC will assign an ALS ambulance to the distressed firefighter(s) and the RIC and request a second ALS ambulance to the scene.

4. EQUIPMENT FOR RIC:

- a. The Following equipment can be used for RIC, but it is not limited to this list:
 - i. RIC air bag (At a minimum shall contain: Full SCBA bottle with universal SCBA transfill hose, 10' piece of 1" tubular webbing, flashlight, and wire/cable cutters) Additional equipment in bag will be up to each individual department,
 - ii. Forcible Entry Tools,
 - iii. Search / Rescue Rope,
 - iv. Webbing,
 - v. TIC's,
 - vi. Hand Light,
 - vii. Portable Radios.
- b. The following equipment should be in staging for RIC use only:
 - i. Charged Hose Line (appropriate length and size for incident),
 - ii. Spare SCBA(s),
 - iii. Extra SCBA Bottle(s),
 - iv. Ladders,
 - v. Saws,
 - vi. Anything else deemed necessary for that particular incident.