

**PENNINGTON COUNTY FIRE SERVICE BOARD (FSB)  
BEST OPERATING PRACTICES (BOPs)**

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS	Date	BOP#
RAPID INTERVENTION CREW (RIC)	Addition: 12/12/2018	FSB202
	Revision: 1/1/2024	

<b>PREMISE:</b>	Operating in an immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) atmosphere is inherently dangerous, with survival of firefighters depending on many factors that are not always predictable. Problems can arise, where rapid intervention can mean the difference between life and death.
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	The purpose of this procedure is to improve firefighter safety in emergency situations by providing for firefighter rescue at the onset of an event before a team member enters an unknown atmosphere, potential or actual IDLH. It shall integrate with procedures that are already in effect, such as the requirement for a back-up team for hazardous materials entry. The objective of a Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) is to have a fully equipped rescue crew on site, in a ready state to immediately react and respond to rescue injured or trapped firefighters or civilians.
<b>SCOPE:</b>	This BOP shall apply to all incidents involving IDLH atmospheres and any incident involving entry into a hazardous area.

**OPERATING PRACTICE:**

- 1) This BOP is written in conjunction with the assistance of the Rapid City Fire Department to ensure consistency between agencies throughout Pennington County.
  - a) Rapid City Fire Department
    - i) SECTION: General Emergency Operations
    - ii) SUBJECT: Rapid Intervention Crew
    - iii) SOP#: 169
  
- 2) **DEFINITIONS:**
  - a) Immediate Danger to Life and Health (IDLH) Atmosphere- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) defines an IDLH atmosphere for interior structure fires as any fire beyond the incipient stage.
  - b) Incipient Stage- An incipient stage fire is a fire that is in the initial or beginning stage and that can be controlled or extinguished by portable fire extinguishers, Class II standpipes, or a single 1-3/4-inch hose line.
  - c) Interior Structural Fire Fighting- The physical activity of fire suppression, rescue, or both, inside buildings or enclosed structures.
  - d) Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) - A dedicated team of two or more fire rescue personnel at the scene of an emergency incident designed to monitor entry teams operating inside the IDLH atmosphere, and if necessary, initiate immediate rescue of personnel.

- e) Life Hazard Emergency- Reasonable evidence that there may be a person(s) in danger. Indicators of a life hazard emergency include but are not limited to; information from dispatch, sighting of a person, detection of a person's voice, sounds likely made by a person, a witness account (e.g., from a neighbor or occupant), that there are victims inside.

3) **PROCEDURES:**

- a) Required use of RIC
- i) At all structural-fires beyond the incipient stage.
  - ii) Any incident where fire department members are subject to hazards that would be immediately dangerous to life and/or health in the event of an equipment failure, sudden change of conditions, or mishap.
- b) Requirements for RIC
- i) A RIC shall consist of at least two firefighters in full gear with SCBA, an equipment cache, and a scan capable radio, ready for immediate response. Equipment shall be made immediately available for RIC use.
  - ii) Equipment will consist of the following:
    - 1 flashlight
    - 4 door straps
    - 1 lifeline
    - 1 bolt cutter (small 12")
    - 1 Wire cutter
    - 1 folding knife (3 to 4" blade)
    - 4 wooden sprinkler/ door wedges
    - 1 pick head axe
    - 1 SCBA (complete)
    - 1 straight blade screwdriver (6")
    - 1 channel lock pliers (12")
    - 1 Philips head screwdriver (6")
    - Thermal Imaging Camera (if available).
- c) Standard Implementation for Structure Fires
- i) When adequate personnel are on scene, the Incident Commander shall designate a dedicated RIC that will monitor and assist the entry teams and not be assigned critical or complex functions. If the safety of the entry teams becomes questionable, members shall not perform any other tasks.
- d) RIC Responsibilities
- i) All RIC's will closely monitor the assigned radio frequency. RIC shall consider scanning all channels to monitor for distress calls.
  - ii) The RIC shall be assigned as a Group under the Operations Section of the Incident Command system and shall have the radio designation "Rapid Intervention."
  - iii) Upon assignment, the RIC Company Officer will obtain a detailed briefing from Command or the RIC they're relieving. This shall include the status and location of all assigned companies.

- iv) RIC's need to maintain an awareness of working companies, identities, location, function, time of entry, and assess all possible access points for egress and rescue.
  - v) A RIC must be able to react immediately to sudden emergency events, to be in a state of readiness, and to rapidly deploy. This means full PPE. Protective hose lines may need to be pre-deployed, preferably from a different pump source.
  - vi) The RIC must notify the I.C. prior to any firefighter rescue operation to ensure that no more crews are being sent in.
- e) Termination of RIC
- i) RIC may be terminated by Incident Commander when safety of entry teams can be assured.