



Lexington County Fire Service

Standard Operating Guidelines Rapid Intervention Team OPS-003

EFFECTIVE: December 1, 2007 **ISSUED BY:** Russell R. Rawl, Fire Service Coordinator

RECINDS: Previous Policy

SCOPE: The Scope of this document is based off of NFPA 1500 section 8.5, 2000 Edition and OSHA 1910.134. This policy is to address the minimum staffing levels that are required and the minimum equipment that will be required to enact this policy. It is in no way intended to limit the Incident Commander or his designees in their decision making processes during an operation that may be specific to any particular incident. It will apply to all fire suppression personnel operating under the leadership of the Fire Service Coordinator other designees.

PURPOSE: This document is prepared to help define the minimum legal requirement governing the organization of OSHA requirements during an entry into an Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health environment, hereafter referred to an IDLH environment.

POLICY:

I. OSHA Requirements - "Two In / Two Out"

This policy is not intended to conflict with OSHA requirements of "Two In/Two Out" as defined in previous policies or the current OSHA literature that relates to IDLH entries by employees.

The two personnel designated as the "two out" will have a minimum a hose line equal to or greater in length and flow to that of the personnel in the IDLH.

II. Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) Bag

- A. Any reference to a RIT bag within this document will be defined as the Rapid Intervention Supply bag that was issued by the County of Lexington to all fire stations containing a MSA brand RescueAire II portable air system with 4500 psi cylinder and carrier, one pair of cable cutters, one pair of side cutters, one roll of forty feet (40') webbing, one length of rope eighty feet (80') long, one Streamlight Vulcan flashlight with accessories, and three carabiners. Two carabiners should be attached to the rope at each end. The third carabiner should attach the flashlight to the bag.
- B. The set-up of these bags should not be altered in anyway to ensure uniformity across the County, as well as to ensure that all Fire Service personnel are familiar with the composition of these bags.

III. **RIT Operations / Application**

- A. The personnel comprising the RIT team shall meet the requirements of OSHA and the South Carolina Fire Academy as it pertains to interior structural firefighter qualifications. Personnel comprising the RIT team shall be experienced firefighters, minimum of Firefighter One certification.

Personnel comprising the RIT team shall have a minimum of the following equipment:

- Portable radio
- One flashlight per member
- Married set or other type of forcible entry tool
- One spare SCBA
- One rope bag
- One cutting tool that will sever wire and other metals

It is preferred that the established RIT bag that is provided by the County to all fire stations be immediately deployed and utilized, but in its absence the previous equipment will equal or exceed requirements. Depending on the operational situation, the Incident Commander or his designee may add to the compliment of tools and equipment assigned to RIT operations.

- B. An assembled RIT team shall remain in place as long as operations are occurring in the IDLH environment.
- C. The RIT team shall be assembled in a tactical position that best suits the operational requirements of the incident, i.e., in a position that is suitable for deployment; but out of extreme heat and away from noisy equipment that could hinder good communication with other resources on the scene.

IV. Deployment

- A. The RIT team will be deployed any time that it is determined that a firefighter or other personnel on the scene is in the distress due to an operational condition within the emergency scene.
- B. The terminology that shall be used to verbalize a firefighter emergency during an operation shall be "MAYDAY". During training operations, another word may be added to or substituted for "MAYDAY" to distinguish between a training episode and an actual firefighter emergency – ie "MAYDAY RED" or "EMERGENCY".

The following information shall be relayed by the firefighter in distress, if able:

- * Location
 - * Unit
 - * Name
 - * Assignment
 - * Reason for Mayday
- C. Following the receipt of this information, all applicable information will be via an effective means of communication to the RIT team members, and they shall deploy into the IDLH. A Personnel Accountability Report, or PAR, shall be initiated.
 - D. It shall be the duty of the Incident Commander or his designee to take the following actions during a firefighter emergency:
 - * Request of additional resources
 - * Keeping radio communications not applicable to personnel within the IDLH or the rescue limited
 - * County Dispatch shall monitor all radio channels, Emergency Medical Services will be in place for victims.

V. Other Duties of the RIT Team

At times, the Incident Commander or his designee may determine that it is acceptable for the RIT team to be used in a fashion to prevent firefighter distress and emergencies.

Examples of these could be:

- * Hardening exits
- * Placing ladders for secondary means of egress
- * Securing utilities

NO duties assigned to the RIT teams shall interfere or hinder the primary mission of the RIT team, which is distressed firefighter assistance and rescue.