
Section: 5.15 On-Deck / Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT)

Effective Date: 09/04/2007

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Approved by: Chief M. Pott 04/18/2014

SCOPE

This guideline applies to all South Metro Fire Department personnel responsible for emergency response.

PURPOSE

This procedure will define the response, tasks and organization of On-Deck crews and/or Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT).

OBJECTIVE

The objective of On-Deck / RIT is to have a fully trained and equipped rescue team on-site, in a ready state, to immediately respond to incident scene resource requirements and/or search for and rescue any lost, trapped, or injured fire fighters. Additionally, the On Deck deployment model greatly assists an IC with managing hazard zone unit's work/rest cycles and their air supplies.

DEFINITIONS

Rapid Intervention Team (RIT): A designated crew that will serve as a stand-by rescue team for personnel and be available for the immediate search and rescue of any missing, trapped, injured or unaccounted for fire fighter(s).

On-Deck: A forward staging position located just outside the immediate hazard zone, safely distanced from the entrance of a tactical position. *Once a crew is assigned to an On-Deck position, they are first and foremost a Rapid Intervention Team until they are given an assignment into the hazard zone.* Assignments for On-Deck units will usually consist of the following:

- Reinforce a tactical position within an assigned division
- Crew relief within an assigned division or group
- Any other tactical position assigned by the IC
- Deploy as a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)

PROCEDURE**A. ON-DECK**

1. On-Deck should be established at all "working" structural fires beyond the incipient stage and other incidents where fire department members are subject to hazards that would be IDLH in the event of an equipment failure, sudden change of conditions, or mishap.
2. Crews will be assigned to On-Deck from Level 1 or Level 2 staging. When assigning crews to On-Deck, the IC should include the location of the assignment and who the On-Deck crew will be reporting to. Once crews arrive at the On-Deck location, they should report their location and ready to work status to their

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appointed supervisor.

3. Once assigned, On-Deck units will be supervised either by the IC or a Division/Group Supervisor and they will remain On-Deck until assigned or relieved. On-Deck crews must remain intact, in full PPE, remain in a ready state and monitor the tactical channel at all times. On-Deck crews must also size up the situation from their location. This size up includes:
 - Locating the structure's entrance/exit points in the assigned area
 - Interior and exterior conditions
 - Unit ID of crews operating inside the structure
 - Approximate location of interior crews
 - Identify which crews are operating each hose line if possible
 - Ensure that appropriate tools and equipment (especially those needed for a RIT deployment) are available without delay
4. When an On-Deck crew is assigned to relieve an exiting working crew, the Company Officer, should do a face to face transfer of information with the Company Officer exiting the structure. The information transfer should include:
 - Tactical objectives and assigned duties
 - Interior conditions
 - Routing instructions to the work area
 - Any interior obstructions or safety issues
 - Additional tools/resources required

B. ASSIGNMENT OF RAPID INTERVENTION TEAMS (RIT)

Rapid Intervention Teams may be assigned separate from On-Deck crews when deemed necessary by the IC based on incident conditions, needs or other factors.

C. DEPLOYMENT OF RAPID INTERVENTION TEAMS (RIT)

1. Upon a report of a firefighter(s) needing assistance On-deck companies become the available RIT response, the IC should deploy the RIT to the last reported location of the firefighter(s).
2. The RIT will respond with appropriate rescue equipment and additional crews must be quickly assembled and organized as needed. Crews already operating in offensive locations should hold their position unless directed by the IC to assist with the rescue. Crews holding their positions may facilitate the rescue by creating a less hazardous environment.
3. Whenever a RIT is deployed, it should be replaced as soon as possible to backup the crews involved in the rescue operation. The IC must anticipate a relay type of rescue by multiple RIT teams in complex incidents.

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4. Trapped emergency responder's hopes of survival depend on the following four critical needs being met. The South Metro Fire Department will use the **A.W.A.R.E** principle when conducting initial RIT operations.

Air: RIT should first provide the victim with a redundant (primary and secondary) supply of air.

Water: If the rescue involves fire, the next consideration is to provide a defensible space for the victim by using a hose line or distributor to protect the victim.

A Radio: If the victim is conscious and able to communicate, RIT may want to provide the trapped victim with a transceiver to monitor his condition. Depending upon the size of the incident, a separate radio channel may be designated for the victim to use.

Extrication: Removal of the victim.

5. The RIT should initially be deployed to locate injured or lost firefighters, and render aid and assistance to the member. The RIT will then report their position and conditions to Command for deployment of appropriate rescue resources to extricate the member if necessary.

D. Termination of RIT

1. Incident Command can terminate the operation of the RIT after determining that no IDLH atmosphere or other hazardous condition exists.
2. If not deployed as a RIT unit, Command may assign this company as a relief unit and rotate them with other crews or companies. RIT units can be used for any appropriate assignments after all crews are out of danger, PAR's have been obtained, and IDLH atmosphere no longer exists.

E. RIT – Assignments & Equipment

While each incident will require a specific evaluation of assignments and equipment needed, it's helpful to consider some recommendations. Each fire fighter will carry a portable radio along with a small flashlight. Consider placing a dedicated attack line for RIT use.