

<p align="center">Crown Point Fire Rescue Department Standard Operating Guidelines</p>	<p>DATE OF ISSUE 4-23-01</p>	<p>AMENDED</p>	<p>No. 114</p>
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The Crown Point Fire Rescue Department often responds to incidents that present a high risk to firefighter safety. This procedure identifies the requirements and operation of Rapid Intervention Teams (RITs). Other related procedures are Lost/Trapped Firefighters Basic Self-Survival and Rescue-Lost Firefighters Command Responsibilities.

This procedure increases firefighters safety at emergency incidents by providing for firefighter rescue at the outset of an event before a team enters an unknown atmosphere, potential or actual IDLH (immediately dangerous to life and health). It should integrate with procedures that are already in effect, such as the requirement for a back-up rescue team for hazardous materials entry. The objective of a RIT crew is to have a fully equipped rescue team on-site, in a ready state, to immediately react and respond to rescue injured or trapped firefighters or civilians.

Required Use of RITs

This procedure shall be implemented at all “working” structural fires beyond the incipient stage and other incidents 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.

Examples of special hazards include, but are not limited to:

- Offensive Fire Operations (assumed to be IDLH)
- Hazardous Materials Incidents (IDLH, potential IDLH, or unknown atmosphere)
- Trench Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue (assumed to be IDLH)
- Any other incident having significant risk

Initial RIT

- Temporary two-person RIT team assigned at the outset of an incident to allow teams to enter an IDLH, potential or unknown atmosphere.
- Priority of Command to upgrade to a full RIT crew as soon as practically possible.

One RIT member must be solely dedicated to tracking interior personnel. Their function is to account for location of interior crews and initiate a firefighter rescue. This position requires an attack line, radio, PPE, and SCBA.

The other member of the two-person RIT is permitted to take on other roles, such as incident commander, safety officer, medic, or equipment operator. This position requires a radio with PPE and SCBA nearby to be donned as soon as possible.

Standard Exceptions to the RIT Requirement at Structure Fires

1. When there is a life hazard where immediate action could prevent the loss of life.
2. When the fire is in an incipient stage that could be controlled by a portable fire extinguisher.

Dispatch and Implementation

Command may assign more than one company as a RIT if necessary. Operations of a large or more complex nature may call for multiple RIT units to standby at different entry points. After dispatch of a company, Command has the following options for use:

3. Assign the company to RIT duties and be designated Rescue Sector.
4. Cancel the company en route after the declaration of fire under control AND PARs have been obtained from all crews and the IDLH atmosphere no longer exists.
5. Assigned other duties, such as heat relief for working crews overhaul duties, etc.
6. If assigned anything other than RIT duties, Command must request an additional company as a RIT unit to be available for emergencies affecting firefighters.

En route potential RITs should monitor the tactical radio channel and initiate a tactical worksheet noting location of operating companies. Upon assignment of RIT responsibilities, the RIT company officer should obtain a detailed briefing from Command or the RIT they're relieving on the status and location of all assigned companies.

All RIT crew members will assume a ready state, including full protective clothing and SCBA. For other

types of incidents the protective clothing and equipment will be appropriate for the hazards. The RIT team company officer will closely monitor the assigned tactical radio channel at all times.

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In some cases the RIT may need to conduct a recon to maintain awareness of working companies and conditions. The team must be able to react immediately to sudden emergency events at the incident site. In all cases, the RIT must have the ability to rapidly deploy.

In some situations, protective hoselines may need to be pre-deployed. RIT companies should assess the need for other access points to provide for egress, rescue, and ventilation. Forcible entry may be necessary. When companies are operating on floors above ground, the RIT should consider pre-positioning ground ladders to allow for emergency egress and rescue.

If a firefighter gets in trouble or an emergency occurs Dispatch should immediately be contacted with a declaration of "May Day". Dispatch will sound emergency traffic and declare the "May Day" and advise responding units. Whenever a RIT is deployed it should be replaced as soon as possible to back up the crews involved in a rescue operation.

If RIT crew units are needed to respond to a sudden emergency, in which the Sector Officer is incapacitated (physically or emotionally), the RIT Company Officer will assume sector responsibilities for the area in which the emergency exists. Rescue sector should coordinate their activities with the involved sector to maximize the rescue operation.

If not deployed as a RIT unit, Command may assign this company as a relief unit and rotate them with interior companies. RIT can be used for any appropriate assignments after all crews are out of danger, PARs have been obtained, and an IDLH atmosphere no longer exists.

High-Rise Fires

For high-rise fires, RITs will be assigned to standby positions in the Resource Sector location, stairwell, or other appropriate locations(s). A secondary standby location may be in the Lobby Sector location. RIT company must take RIT bag to the Resource or Lobby Sector standby.

RIT - SCBA Rescue Kits

Once assigned to RIT standby duties, the assigned company must obtain SCBA Rescue Kits from any engine. Each kit should be checked for air supply and tools (See Appendix A). Upon a report of a lost or trapped firefighter, the kit (or more than one kit) must be taken to the rescue area.

Commitment to Rescue of a Lost or Trapped Firefighter

Upon a report of a lost or trapped firefighter, Command should deploy the RIT(s) to the last reported location of the lost/trapped firefighter(s). The RIT - SCBA kit(s) must be taken. The Company Officer of the RIT may be assigned a "Rescue Sector" designation. Appropriate rescue equipment and crews must be quickly assembled and organized.

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APPENDIX A

The items to be included in each RIT - SCBA Kit are as follows:

- 4 Flashlights
- 4 Door straps
- 1 Life line with deployment bag
- 1 Bolt cutter (small 12")
- 1 Channel Lock (multi adjustable pliers 12")
- 1 Phillips head screwdriver (6")
- 1 Folding knife (3-4" blade)
- 1 Wire cutter (snub nose pliers with side cutter 7-10")
- 1 Straight blade screwdriver (6")
- 1 SCBA bottle supply pigtail
- 1 SCBA bottle (pony)