

Kennebunkport Fire Department

SOG 31

PROCEDURE FOR ESTABLISHING AND USE OF A RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM

JUNE 2002

MISSION

ENHANCE FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

Rapid Intervention Team

The Kennebunkport Fire Department often responds to incidents that present a high risk to firefighter safety. This procedure identifies the requirements for and the operation of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT).

This procedure is intended to increase the overall level of safety for fire department members operating at emergency incidents. 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 company 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 RIT companies

This procedure shall be implemented at all "working" structural fires 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
- Hazardous Materials Incidents
- Trench Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue
- Any other incident having significant risk

Immediate Implementation

Upon arriving at the scenes of a working fire a company, of at least two firefighters, will be designated as the RIT company. (usually the initial back-up line) When more personnel arrive at the emergency scene a company of at least 4 interior-qualified firefighters will be designated as the R.I. T. company and should stage on-scene in a location to maximize their options and await instruction from Command. During major operations, RIT companies will normally be assigned a standby position near the Command Post. A minimum of one company will be required. Command may assign more than one company if necessary. Operations of a large or more complex nature may call for multiple RIT Companies to standby at different entry points. After dispatch of a RIT company, Command has the following options for use:

Assign the company to RIT company duties and be designated RIT company
Cancel the company enroute after the declaration of fire under control AND
Personal Accountability Reports have been obtained from all companies operating at the scene.

Assigned to other duties, such as heat relief for working crews during overhaul operations, etc.

If assigned, anything other than RIT company duties, Command must request an additional company as a RIT company to be available for emergencies affecting firefighters.

All RIT company members will assume a ready state, including full protective clothing and SCBA. For other types of incidents the protective clothing equipment will be appropriate for the hazards. The RIT company officer will closely monitor the assigned fire ground channel at all times.

In some cases the RIT company may need to conduct recon to maintain awareness of working companies. The team must be able to react immediately to sudden emergency events at the incident site. In all cases, the RIT company must have the ability to rapidly deploy. In some situations, protective hoselines may need to be pre-deployed.

If RIT company 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. Additional resources, including additional alarms, will be requested through Command and the resources will be sent to the rescue area as the emergency dictates.

If not needed as a RIT company, Command may assign this company as a heat relief unit, but not until it is certain that all crews are out of danger and Personal Accountability Reports have been obtained.

Commitment to Rescue of a Lost or Trapped Firefighter

Upon a report of a lost or trapped firefighter, Command should deploy the RIT company to the last reported location of the lost/trapped firefighter(s). Appropriate rescue equipment and crews must be quickly assembled and organized.