

Cedarville Township Volunteer Fire Department
Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) SOG
2008

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To establish guidelines for the designation of a Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) at emergency incidents.
- 1.2 To establish guidelines for Fire Department personnel when functioning as a member of the Rapid Intervention Crew.
- 1.3 To enhance the safety of personnel operating at emergency incidents.

2.0 DIVISIONS

- 2.1 All Fire Department personnel.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITY

- 3.1 All Officers are responsible to comply with and ensure that personnel under their command are adequately trained, fully understand, and comply with this guideline.
- 3.2 All members have the responsibility to learn and follow this guideline.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

- 4.1 Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH)— For the purposes of this procedure, this means any environment where conditions exist that could result in immediate, debilitating effects to exposed personnel. Examples of these environments may include toxic atmospheres, atmospheres with impaired visibility, degraded structural conditions, or high heat environments.
- 4.2 Initial Stages of an Incident—Includes the period of an incident when the first arriving companies are undertaking tasks.
- 4.3 Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC)—A rescue team at the scene of emergency incidents specifically designated to provide personnel for the rescue/removal of Fire Department personnel engaged in hazardous operations.
- 4.4 Hazardous Operations—Those activities that may place operating personnel at increased risk of injury or death. These operations may include operations in IDLH atmospheres (toxic or oxygen deficient), interior structural firefighting, hazardous materials incidents, confined space entries, technical rescue operations, or other activities that may subject Fire Department personnel to increased risks.

- 4.5 Initial Rapid Intervention Crew (IRIC) - A temporary two person RIC assigned at the onset of an incident to allow a two person team to enter an IDLH or unknown atmosphere.
- 5.0 INITIAL RIC
- 5.1 IRIC (Initial RIC) - complies with 2 in and 2 out requirement
- 5.2 Command will upgrade the IRIC to a full RIC as soon as practically possible.
- 5.3 One IRIC member must be dedicated to accountability of interior personnel. Their function is to account for location of interior crews and initiate a fire fighter rescue.
- 5.4 Exceptions to IRIC at Structure Fires
When there is a known life hazard and immediate action could prevent loss of life. When the fire is in the incipient stage that could be controlled by a portable fire extinguisher.
- 5.5 Personnel arriving on the scene of a working structure fire prior to the assembling of the four persons necessary to initiate interior fire fighting operations may perform exterior actions in preparation for an interior attack. These actions may include, but are not limited to:
- A. Establishing a water supply
 - B. Shutting off utilities
 - C. Placing ladders
 - D. Laying the attack line to the entrance of the IDLH
 - E. Establishing exposure protection
- 6.0 PROCEDURE
- 6.1 The objective of the RIC is to have trained, fully-equipped rescue crews on site, in a ready state, to immediately react and respond to firefighters in distress, or to otherwise provide egress assistance from a hazardous environment.
- 6.2 The role of the RIC is to provide for the immediate removal of trapped or injured firefighters and to establish and maintain safe routes of egress from the involved structure or hazard zone.
- 6.3 A RIC shall be established by Incident Command whenever an incident has progressed beyond the initial stages of the incident and extended hazardous operations are anticipated. In any case, the request for mutual aid companies requires the establishment of a Rapid Intervention Crew for the duration of hazardous operations.
- 6.4 The Rapid Intervention Crew will be referred to as the “RIC” or “rapid intervention” group.

- 6.5 A tactical radio channel is recommended for RIC operations. The GC-RIC channel on the 800MHz system will be the primary channel used.
- 6.6 The type and size of the company or crew will depend on the hazards of the situation and the availability of personnel, but shall not consist of less than three personnel, including the RIC Leader.
- 6.7 Incident Command will decide, based on structure size and construction type, the apparatus needed for RIC. At a minimum, one Engine Company will be used for RIC. It is recommended that a Medic unit be staged with the RIC Engine. Incident Command should consider the use and/or staging of a Rescue Company for large residential and commercial structures to provide additional cribbing and specialized tools. The staging of a second alarm assignment may also be considered for commercial occupancies.
- 6.8 Personnel assigned RIC functions shall be properly trained in the role of the RIC and shall be capable of performing anticipated RIC activities. Rapid Intervention Crews at technical rescue or other incidents requiring specialized training shall consist of personnel capable of functioning in the technical or specialized rescue environment.
- 6.9 Personnel assigned RIC functions shall be equipped with the personal protective equipment appropriate for the anticipated hazards.
- 6.10 In most cases, a mutual aid company will be designated as the RIC. If mutual aid companies are not utilized, host Fire Department personnel may be assigned to RIC functions.
- 6.11 RIC personnel shall be staged to best facilitate anticipated RIC operations. The RIC should be staged to support quick access to the hazard zone, support effective communications with Command or Operations, and to facilitate staging of equipment. The designated staging area should be determined based on the needs and layout of the emergency incident. For large or complex incidents, more than one RIC and RIC staging area may be designated; consider establishing a Rapid Intervention Crew group.
- 6.12 Whenever a RIC is deployed, a minimum of one **Paramedic** staffed Medic shall be assigned to support RIC operations.
- 6.13 Incident Command should consider the staging of an additional Engine Company and Medic to facilitate immediate replacement if the primary company's are utilized.
- 6.14 Whenever a RIC is deployed to assist trapped or injured personnel, a replacement RIC and Medic shall be designated and staged.

- 6.15 The RIC shall assemble and remain at the point of entry in a safe location, or in a designated staging area and monitor all communications as well as maintain a visual observation of all activities.
- 6.16 At no time shall any RIC member become involved in the fire ground tasks that will delay or hinder in any way the RIC member from immediately responding to a “mayday” call. “Freelancing” or independent firefighter operations will NOT be tolerated from any RIC member.
- 6.17 Command may find it necessary to deploy the designated RIC to perform immediate, high priority tactical functions. In such cases, a replacement RIC will be designated as expeditiously as possible.

Example: Assisting in the rescue and removal of trapped civilians.

- 6.18 The responsibilities of the RIC include:
- A. Size up of the structure for egress points and potential hazards.
 - B. Monitor the number, location and condition of operating crews.
 - C. Placement of ladders to upper stories of a building for emergency egress;
 - D. Procurement and staging of necessary equipment.
- 6.19 Whenever a RIC is assigned, the following equipment should be available to the RIC and staged in the appropriate staging area:
- A. Thermal imaging camera
 - B. Forcible entry hand tools
 - 1. halligan tool
 - 2. flat-head or pick head axe
 - 3. pike pole
 - 4. sledge hammer or TNT tool
 - 5. bolt and/or wire cutters
 - C. Portable radios (one for each RIC member)
 - D. Hand lights
 - E. Two spare SCBA units (type used by operating personnel)
 - F. Stokes basket with rescue/search rope and webbing
 - G. SCBA RIC bag
 - H. Salvage cover or tarp on which to place RIC equipment
- 6.20 The above mentioned tool list is merely a starting point. Specific tools needed will depend on building construction.

- 6.21 The RIC will report directly to the Incident Commander or to the Operations group, depending on the structure of the Incident Command System in place for the incident.
- 6.22 When deployed, the RIC will respond to the last known operating area of a lost, trapped or injured firefighter. The RIC Leader shall keep Command or Operations, if established, appraised of the situation and any additional resources that may be required.
- 6.23 To notify Command of the need for deployment of the RIC, the crew in “trouble” or the division officer will activate the emergency button on their 800 MHz radio and declare a “MAYDAY”, “MAYDAY”, “MAYDAY”. All other fire ground suppression operations will continue. The emergency broadcast will include location of downed person or crew, condition if known, and the extent of the emergency, i.e. trapped, fell through a floor, ceiling down etc.
- 6.24 Command will activate the RIC, with the last known location and the type of emergency situation the crew has declared. A tactical radio channel will be established for RIC use. The GC-RIC channel on the 800MHz system will be the primary channel used.
- 6.25 All other operating crews will continue with there designated assignments. A PAR of all divisions will be called for by Command.

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_____ Date: _____

D. Scott Baldwin
Fire Chief
Cedarville Township Volunteer Fire Department