RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

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I. "R.I.T." PURPOSE (also referred to as F.A.S.T. Team)

1. Eliminate hazards that may hinder firefighter escape.
2. Immediately assist a firefighter in distress.
3. Rescue a missing/trapped firefighter.

II. "R.I.T." RESPONSE

1. All working fires.
2. Upon request by incident commander.

III. DISPATCH PROCEDURES

1. The dispatcher will notify the assigned department or company that they are the "R.I.T." team.
2. The dispatcher will notify the incident commander of the "R.I.T." team, which is responding to the fire ground scene.

IV. "R.I.T." PERSONNEL

1. Minimum of 4 firefighters. Four or more firefighters are preferred.
2. Each member should have rescue or ladder company experience and training.
3. (Use of forcible entry and rescue tools.) (A benchmark is 3 years of service as a Level II FF.)
4. Teams should have members who are EMT or CFR qualified.
5. Personnel should be in good physical condition.
6. Personnel should have positive attitudes.
7. Personnel should have a thorough understanding of fireground accountability systems.
8. Personnel should have a thorough understanding of building construction.

V. REQUIRED "R.I.T." TOOLS

1. Two sets of irons (Halogen and flat head ax/sledge hammer).
2. Two six foot pike poles.
3. Power saw with wood, cement, and metal blades.
4. SCBA and spare bottles for every member of team; extra SCBA/Bottle for trapped firefighter.

5. Rescue rope for each member of team.
6. 24" tubular webbing for each member of team.
7. Minimum of two portable radios per team.
8. Pick head ax.
9. Fire service chain saw.
10. Hand lights for each member of team.
11. K-tool/rabbit tool.
12. Full turnout gear - each member.
13. Tarp for staging.
14. Thermal imaging camera.
15. Target exit device.

In addition, each "R.I.T." should know location of nearest available:

1. Airbags.
2. Hydraulic rescue tool systems.
3. Air shores/jacks.
4. Reciprocating saw.
5. Back Boards/Blanket litters.
6. Oxy-acetylene torch.

Note: Each situation will dictate which tool will be required. The team will remain flexible in its operation.

VI. "R.I.T." FIRE GROUND OPERATIONS

1. "R.I.T." should position apparatus away from the immediate fireground area to give suppression apparatus access to the scene.
2. "R.I.T." officer reports to the incident commander.
3. "R.I.T." stages tools and equipment, near command post, or where designated by the Incident Commander.
4. "R.I.T." conducts size up (See Section VII below).
5. "R.I.T." monitors radio traffic (See Section VIII below).
6. The "R.I.T." surveys Engine and Ladder apparatus availability.
7. The "R.I.T." may be given "Safety" assignments in divisions, including:
    a. Structure evaluation/Fire Spread Recon
    b. Accountability of interior operations and unit location
    c. Names of all members operating on interior
    d. Utility control confirmation
    e. Resource allocation

8. The "R.I.T." should not engage in any form of firefighting activity, except those of a safety officer. (STAND FAST)

   "R.I.T." members may participate in activities that will increase operational safety, such as placement of additional portable ladders to the building.

VII. THE "R.I.T." OFFICER AND CREW SHOULD OBTAIN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM THE INCIDENT COMMANDER, AND FROM THEIR OWN OBSERVATIONS ON SCENE:

1. Fire ground radio channel being utilized.
2. The location to stage tools.
3. The type of building construction and any known hazards.
4. Location of fire units operating within the structure.
5. Material burning within the structure and the expected fire travel.
6. Identity of companies operating and their location.
7. The time period those companies have been in operation.
8. Whether the companies are making any progress.
9. Whether there are sufficient companies available on the fireground.
10. Location of exit doors.
11. Whether exit doors need to be forced.
12. Whether overhead doors are secured open.
13. The location and types of windows.
14. The ability to access those windows.
15. The ability to access the side and rear of the structure.
16. Whether there are different levels for the front and rear of the structure.
17. Whether ladders need to be placed to the upper floors, side and rear, roof, or exposures.
18. The type of SCBA being used by interior crews.
19. The areas the firefighters are operating in the building.
20. The areas the firefighters are operating on the outside of the building.
21. "R.I.T." members should survey Engine, Ladder, Rescue companies to determine:
    a. Size and amount of hose available.
    b. Whether master streams are available.
    c. The number and size of ladders available.

VIII. THE "R.I.T." OFFICER SHOULD MONITOR RADIO TRAFFIC FOR INDICATION THAT A FIREFIGHTER MAY BE IN TROUBLE:

1. Whether units are making or not making progress.
2. Whether units are transmitting at the same time.

3. Whether units appear overly excited by tone of voice.
4. Whether Pass or SCBA low air alarms are activated.

IX. INCIDENT COMMAND OPERATIONS FOR MISSING/TRAPPED FIREFIGHTER

1. Confirm report of missing or trapped department member.
    a. Consider use of search rope in operation of large area.
2. Restrict use of fireground radio channel.
3. Gather information on missing firefighter.
4. Establish PAR.
5. Assign the "R.I.T." to search for missing firefighter.
6. Transmit additional alarms, including request for specialized units (including heavy rescue, cascade unit, rehab unit, CISD team).
7. Request that additional paramedics respond to scene, as needed.
8. Direct ventilation and lighting of search area.
9. Direct necessary hose lines to search area.
10. Protect firefighter from additional hazards.

If a firefighter is lost, but not trapped, remind the firefighter to stay low, calm, and not to move. Maintain constant communication with the lost firefighter.

X. RESCUE TEAM OPERATIONS FOR MISSING/TRAPPED FIREFIGHTER

1. First determine members last known location from all available information sources.
2. Search points to consider:
    a. Tracing hose line into last known area.
    b. Sight of missing firefighter's light
    c. Sounds of missing firefighter (SCBA/pass/radio/etc.)
    d. Locate area of missing firefighter tools.
    e. If necessary, utilize feedback-assisted rescue through pass devices over radio frequency (all the radios turned off) or feedback from two radios together.
3. If firefighter is able to provide information, obtain floor, area floor, or site of exposure, entrance used by the firefighter, and objects within his vision.
4. Determine firefighter's condition.
    a. Is firefighter conscious or unconscious?
    b. Is the firefighter breathing?
    c. Is the firefighter mobile?
    d. If firefighter is trapped, determine the extent of entrapment.
    e. Will special equipment be needed for removal?
    f. How much air is left in firefighter's SCBA?
5. Notify the incident commander of location of missing/trapped firefighter.

6. Determine the quickest and safest route for removal. This may include the creation of, or enlargement of an existing opening.

XI. THE INCIDENT COMMANDER AND/OR R.I.T. OFFICER SHOULD REQUEST ADDITIONAL "R.I.T." WHEN THE SIZE OF INCIDENT OR EXPOSURE DICTATE

1. If using mutual aid department for R.I.T., incident command should provide mutual aid R.I.T. team with one of our radios, set to channel of fire ground operations.