

Standard Operating Guidelines

Guideline 210.0 Rapid Intervention Team



Purpose:

The purpose of this Standard Operating Guideline is to provide guidance for the implementation and operation of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) at the scene of an emergency. These guidelines shall provide the minimum standards for RIT implementation.

Guideline:

IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES:

1. Due to the variety of available personnel of each department within Williams County, the procedures for actually implementing a RIT will be up to each individual department. It is stressed that a RIT be implemented at EVERY working fire or at an emergency incident where the Incident Commander feels a RIT is warranted.
2. AUTOMATIC MUTUAL AID: In the event that the Automatic Aid system is being implemented, the first Mutual Aid Engine on the scene will be designated as RIT, unless reassigned by the Incident Commander.
3. If the incident warrants more than one RIT, multiple RIT's may be formed and assigned as needed.

OPERATIONS:

1. The first Mutual Aid Engine on the scene will advise IC that they are on the scene and will be assuming the RIT role.
2. The Engine Company assigned as a RIT will position their apparatus so as to not interfere with other apparatus operating on the fire scene
3. The RIT will report to the Incident Commander or Command Post with the following tools and equipment: (These are the minimums.)
 - a. Full turnout gear including SCBA.
 - b. Forcible entry tools (flat head ax, halligan tool, sledge hammer or maul, short pike pole, saw, etc.)
 - c. Portable radio(s), hand light(s), search rope (150 foot minimum).
 - d. Thermal imaging camera.
4. Personnel assigned to the RIT should not be overloaded with equipment because the team must be able to operate quickly, safely and efficiently.
5. Once the RIT reports to the Incident Commander with the above equipment, it should remain in a position that will maximize its readiness on the fire ground. (Environmental factors may require consideration.)

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6. Officer's assigned to the RIT should complete a visual size-up of the building, noting any means of egress and exit, portable ladder locations, and exposure problems.
Plan ahead for emergencies.
7. A large industrial building fire, the Incident Commander may choose to relocate the RIT to a position that will offer a quicker response to the hazard area.
8. The RIT will be placed into operation at the emergency scene on orders of the Incident Commander **ONLY**.
To ensure that the highest level of safety is maintained, once the RIT has been deployed, all radio transmissions between the Incident Commander, the RIT and the fire fighter(s) in distress are considered as emergency traffic and will be conducted exclusively on the assigned radio frequency.
9. When a RIT is placed in a ready mode, the Safety Officer must be advised.

TASKS:

1. The primary task of the RIT is to respond to any firefighter(s) reported in distress, missing, injured, or trapped.
2. Primary responsibilities of the RIT will include but not limited to:
 - a. Searching the area where the missing/injured firefighter(s) were last reported.
 - b. Following the hose line of lost firefighter(s) to minimize rescue time.
 - c. Looking and listening for evidence of lost firefighter(s) (special attention should be given for the different PASS device alarms).
 - d. Searching hallways, exterior walls and collapsed areas.
 - e. Monitoring radio transmissions of operating crews .
 - f. Reporting all findings and progress to the Incident Commander.
3. If the RIT is utilized for another tactical assignment, the team must be replaced by another RIT as soon as possible.
4. As the need for the RIT is diminished, this Engine Company may be deactivated and assigned to another task or returned to quarters.