



# Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Volunteer Fire Department

<b>S.O.P. Number: 600</b>	<b>Effective Date: May 1, 2001</b>
<b>Section: 609</b>	
<b>Subject: RIT - Rapid Intervention Team Operation</b>	
<b>By Order of the Fire Chief: Steve Paine</b>	

## Section 609: Rapid Intervention Team Operation

### Purpose

To provide operational guidelines for departmental personnel at incidents involving a need for rapid intervention.

### Scope

All LBTS VFD personnel shall adhere to these guidelines to maximize the safety of members operating in hazardous situations.

### Responsibilities

It shall be the responsibility of the Incident Commander to ensure that these guidelines are employed at all incidents involving the possible need for rapid intervention.

### Procedures

1. The request for a rapid intervention team shall be made at all incidents involving a prolonged hazard. Examples include situations involving working fires, gas leaks, and special operations.
2. Rapid intervention crews or "RIT. Teams" shall initially be comprised of a minimum of 2 personnel assigned to an apparatus.
3. If necessary additional units may be summoned to the scene to accomplish further objectives. Rapid intervention shall take place at any report of a missing or injured firefighter.
4. The RIT. Team shall assemble themselves in full gear and breathing apparatus with the RIT. emergency response bag to a location away from the hazard area as designated by the incident commander.
5. The following additional equipment should be made accessible; medical equipment, stokes basket, spare SCBA and bottle, forcible entry tools, cutting tools, rope bags, and lighting equipment.
6. If accessible, the RIT. Team should perform a quick 360-degree size-up of the hazard area with special attention being given to access and or exit areas.
7. Once the RIT. size-up is completed, the RIT. shall report to the designated staging area



# Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Volunteer Fire Department

---

and stand-by. All members of the RIT.

8. Team shall monitor fire ground communications to remain aware of conditions or potential problems.

## **RIT. - Deployment:**

1. Upon activation of any portable radio emergency button, "MAYDAY" distress call, uncontrolled P.A.S.S., or other notification of need for assistance, the incident commander shall deploy the RIT. Upon this need for rapid intervention, an "emergency traffic only" transmission should be declared and all radio traffic cleared until further advised. In addition, the following information should be attained prior to commencing rapid intervention operations.
2. Last reported location and condition of the firefighter/firefighters in question.
3. His or her working time in the structure or SCBA air remaining.
4. The nature of the distress.
5. Any special situations noticeable. (I.e. extrication, entrapment, etc.)
6. The fire ground Safety Officer shall oversee the operations performed by the RIT.
7. If necessary RIT. rescue communications may be switched to another channel to allow for separate fire ground communication.
8. Upon deployment, the RIT. shall notify command of the specific entrance being used in entering the hazard area and any further resource needs to complete the required task.
9. Upon deployment of the on scene RIT., the incident commander shall immediately assign a secondary (backup) team to stand-by at the pre-existing staging area. This crew should preferably be a non-fatigued crew.
10. In addition to the above, the primary response rescue unit should be assigned only to treatment of the firefighter/firefighters involved in the intervention. An additional rescue shall be dispatched for assignment as rehab/medical sector and to stand-by for needs during fire ground operations.
11. Location of Firefighter
12. Upon location of the down or trapped firefighter, the RIT. shall perform the following:
13. Locate and shut off the downed firefighter(s) P.A.S.S. device if activating.
14. Ascertain the air supply left in the SCBA and arrange for continuing air supply.
15. Notify command of the firefighter(s) specific location, surrounding conditions, air supply status, and type of rescue.
16. Perform a secondary survey by sweeping the downed firefighter(s) body with hands to determine possible entanglement or entrapment. Should these conditions exist, notify command immediately.
17. A determination should be made as to the type of intervention needing to be performed. A "clean" or "dirty" rescue shall then be advised to command. Clean rescues involve careful manipulation of the firefighter for maximum safety. Examples would include broken bones, neck, and back injuries. Clean rescues shall only take place when



## Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Volunteer Fire Department

---

surrounding hazards are controlled. Dirty rescues involve rapid extrication of personnel due to surrounding circumstances or firefighter condition. Examples would include imminent explosion, heavy fire conditions, or the need for immediate medical attention. These conditions make rapid extrication necessary.

### **RIT. Termination**

Upon removal of the distressed individual, a personal accountability report (PAR) shall be conducted and all operations commenced. At the discretion of the incident commander, the RIT. can be terminated when it appears that control of the situation has been achieved. Although, care should be taken to provide the safest possible working conditions for crews continuing operations.

Should conditions warrant, C.I.S.D. may be considered in operations involving aid to co-workers from high levels of injury or other stressful traumatic situations involving RIT. rescuers.