

# **RAPID INTERVENTION CREW TRAINING GUIDELINES**

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# **RAPID INTERVENTION CREW TRAINING GUIDELINES**

Developed by the RIC Training Committee of the Training and Education Advisory Council of the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission.

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## **Rapid Intervention Crew Training Guidelines**

### **INTRODUCTION**

A joint committee from the Safety and Health (S&H) and Training and Education (T&E) Advisory Councils of the State Fire Safety Commission was appointed to consider if there was a need in New Jersey for standardized Rapid Intervention Crew training. The Committee was expanded to include several people who are not members of either Advisory Council but are practitioners and RIC trainers.

The committee determined that a common training package for RICs is advisable. In the world we live in today, and with the provisions of the Deployment Act, RICs could be deployed from any section of the State to another. A common core curriculum would facilitate interoperability.

The opinion was that specialized training: high angle, swift water, trench, confined space, etc., would not be considered in this assignment, but might be considered after this work is completed.

These conclusions were reported to both Advisory Councils and the Fire Safety Commission. There were no objections to the plan.

T&E was then assigned the primary responsibility of developing the various standardized and minimum training modules. The members of the original committee were asked to continue on the development committee. Most accepted.

Many Eligible Organizations were offering RIC Awareness (although at the time, FAST and RIT were common acronyms) and RIC Operations training. RIC Team training (or RIC Technician) had many common elements when the various courses were reviewed.

The Committee determined that all firefighters needed an awareness of why a RIC is needed at an incident, how RICs operate, how a firefighter in distress would declare that information, and how firefighters relate to a RIC. This would be taught to all firefighters and included in the Firefighter I curriculum, as a stand-alone class.

A RIC Operations module would be taught as a stand-alone class and teach individual firefighters several evolutions that the Committee identified as the basic proficiencies that a RIC needs. Operating in teams during class, the firefighters would demonstrate these basic proficiencies.

Generally, a RIC Team will be organized at the fire department level. There are instances where fire companies operating several response units might establish a RIC Team in the company. In other instances, two or more small fire companies might jointly form a RIC Team.

Standards for RIC Team initial training and annual update training for established Teams were prepared. When there is one RIC at an incident, the Team needs a Leader. If the size of the

incident requires more than one RIC, in accordance with the NIMS-ICS, a RIC Group Supervisory would be needed. Qualifications for those officers have been included in the RIC Team Guidelines.

For uniform training, there needs to be uniform teaching. Instructor Standards were developed.

A list of resources for training and a Sample SOG have been included in the package to assist in implementing the program.

During the development of these Guidelines, NFPA 1407, Standard for Training Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews, was adopted. The Committee finds that the Guidelines printed here are consistent with NFPA 1407.

It is anticipated that most training will be conducted by Tier I Eligible Organizations that have a course with their own materials that meet these Guidelines. Some annual update training for RIC Teams should be conducted locally by the fire department. However, no State certification of RIC Teams is recommended.

Thanks are given to the members of the RIC Training Committee who have devoted so much time to complete this assignment.

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## Rapid Intervention Crew Training Guidelines

### RIC AWARENESS

The following are the Guidelines for Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) Awareness Training. This training can be included in the Firefighter I curriculum presented as a stand-alone class or taken at a DFS sanctioned class.

#### Section 1. Introduction

##### (A) What is RIC?

- (1) An acronym for **R**apid **I**ntervention **C**rew
- (2) Some terms used in other jurisdictions
  - a. FAST; Firefighter Assist and Search Team
  - b. RIT; Rapid Intervention Team

##### (B) Statistics

- (1) Number of Fires is down
- (2) Number of Injuries is up
- (3) Number of Line of Duty Deaths are the same

##### (C) Authority

- (1) P.L. 1995, c.266 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-25k)
  - a. Required DCA Commissioner to establish a mandatory incident management system for the fire service.
- (2) N.J.A.C. 5:75-2.1 adopted NFPA 1561-1995 as the standard
- (3) NFPA 1561 requires a rapid intervention team

#### Section 2. The Need for RIC.

##### (A) History of tragic events:

- (1) Hackensack N.J., 1988. Five firefighters get lost and trapped within the burning car dealership structure fire.
- (2) Passaic N.J., 2001. One firefighter dies after becoming lost in third floor apartment during a working fire.
- (3) Philadelphia, Pa., 2004. Two firefighters die when one becomes entangled in fence material, his Captain perishes while trying to free him.

##### (B) Standards:

- (1) Due to these tragic events, as well as others, the following RIC standards were developed:
  - a. N.J.A.C. 5:72-2.1
  - b. N.F.P.A. 1407
  - c. N.F.P.A. 1500
  - d. N.F.P.A. 1561
  - e. N.F.P.A. 1710



- (2) The RIC Leader should perform a 360-degree inspection of structure and gather any important information such as building construction, specific hazards, and interior activities.
- (3) The RIC Members lay out the Equipment Tarp, place tools and equipment on tarp.
  - a. Check and run all power equipment.
  - b. Confirms proper type blades are in power saws.
  - c. Has spare gas can and tool for blade change.
- (4) Provide and or create access to structure.
  - a. Remove or open fencing.
  - b. Remove window security gates.
  - c. Remove door security gates.
  - d. Remove sub-level windows (If no effect to fire travel or intensity).
  - e. Perform size-up.
  - f. Set up auxiliary lighting.
  - g. Verbally confirm with Command, utilities are secured.
- (5) Monitor fireground radio transmissions.
- (6) Maintain team contact while performing the above tasks.

#### Section 4. Deployment of RIC

##### (A) Terminology:

- (1) It has been found that the following words can be used for similar type emergencies. Although the definitions may seem similar, it is important not to confuse the two on the fire ground.
  - a. Note: Word definitions are to coincide with the adopted terminology recognized by the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety.

**MAYDAY:** (Come) help me. The international radio-telephonic signal for help, used by ships and aircraft.

- I. The “MAYDAY” radio message shall be used to indicate that a team or individual is in extreme danger, such as:
  1. Becoming trapped or entangled
  2. Cut off by fire
  3. Cut off by collapse
  4. Falling through a floor or roof
  5. Becoming pinned
  6. Any SCBA failure
  7. Firefighter down
  8. Becoming lost or disoriented, or losing a member of your crew.
  9. Anytime a PASS device is fully activated and a PAR report confirms a member in distress.
  10. Structural Collapse during interior firefighting.
  11. Air supply is less than required to exit IDLH atmosphere.
  12. Or any other life threatening condition not listed in the above-specified conditions.

- II. Person(s) calling MAYDAY state the word three times in succession await a response form the IC or his designee

**URGENT:** Calling for haste, immediate action, grave or pressing.

- I. The “URGENT” radio message shall be used to indicate a serious condition or change in conditions such as:
  1. A firefighter has suffered an injury that is not immediately life threatening, but requires medical assistance.
  2. Signs of structural instability indicating danger of imminent structural collapse.
  3. Sudden increase in fire or smoke conditions that may inhibit firefighter egress.
  4. An interior attack is to be discontinued and an exterior attack instituted.
  5. Loss of water that may endanger firefighters.
  6. Immediate need for additional resources such as:
    - a. Ground ladders for trapped occupants in imminent danger.
    - b. Immediate alternate means of egress due to fire conditions.
  7. Fire extension into an exposure to a degree that any delay may considerably enlarge the fire problem.
  8. Structural collapse has occurred during defensive operations.
  9. Or any other dangerous condition not listed in the above-specified conditions.

II. The member initiating the emergency communication will begin by repeating “URGENT” three times followed by the remainder of the message including LUNAR information.

(B) Acronyms:

- I. **LUNAR.** Person(s) calling MAYDAY shall state the word three times in succession, await a response form the IC or his designee, then gives the following information using the acronym LUNAR.

**L** Location. (Current or last known.) and what happened

**U** Unit #

**N** Name

**A** Assignment (What were you assigned to do?) and Air Supply remaining

**R** Resources Needed

- II. **PAR.** Personnel Accountability Report. A roll call will be taken every thirty minutes or as needed, based on the scale of the incident.
  1. A PAR will also be done any time a catastrophic event has occurred on the incident scene (e.g. Building collapse, explosion, fireground evacuation, etc.).

III. Other appropriate local Acronyms can be explained.



(C) Examples:

- (1) Using the term MAYDAY: Person(s) calling MAYDAY, state the word three times in succession, await a response from the IC or his designee, then gives information using the acronym LUNAR.

Member: "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY. Command from 2215 Bravo."

Command: "2215 Bravo from command, proceed with your MAYDAY."

Member: "Command from 2215 Bravo (Smith). I was operating on the second floor doing a search when it collapsed. I have 1500 psi in my bottle and I am in a hole."

Command: "Received 2215 Bravo. 1500 psi in your bottle, fell through the second floor trapped in a hole. Maintain Radio communication, activate your pass device, we are coming to get you!! I'm deploying the RIC. "

- a. Note: It is possible that the RIC will hear or see the need for deployment. It is the duty of the RIC Leader to advise Command.

- (2) Using the term URGENT: The member initiating the emergency communication will begin by repeating "URGENT" three times followed by the remainder of the message including LUNAR information.

Member: "URGENT, URGENT, URGENT.. Command from 2212 Officer."

Command: "2212 Officer from Command, proceed with your URGENT."

Member: "Command from 2212 Officer. We are located on Division C and I have 2212 Charlie who tripped over a hose and possibly has a broken leg."

Command: "2212 Officer from Command, I am sending resources to Division C to assist."

(D) Dispatch/Communications:

- b. Local dispatch/communications should be trained on the part they play in a RIC operation. They need to practice their role before an actual incident occurs.

(E) Taking Action:

- (1) Confirm the Information
- MAYDAY
  - LUNAR
  - RIC Assignments
- (2) Fireground operations should now switch to alternate channel as ordered by the IC. Two options are available depending on the manpower available:
- MAYDAY caller stays on his current channel, as the RIC will operate on this channel along with an outside Officer to monitor RIC activities and needs.

- b. MAYDAY caller stays on his current channel, the RIC will operate on their own separate channel, and the outside RIC Officer will monitor both the MAYDAY channel and the RIC channel.
- (3) Dispatch/communications should monitor RIC Operations.
- (4) RIC broadcasts its entry point
- (5) IC dispatches additional RICs to the scene
- (6) RIC operations
  - a. Search
  - b. Locate
  - c. Assess condition of firefighter
  - d. Assess condition of scene
  - e. Package
  - f. Remove

(F) After the Rescue:

- (1) Rehabilitation
  - a. Monitor Behavioral, Physical, and Psychological symptoms
- (2) Critical Incident Stress Debriefing
- (3) After Action Reports
  - a. IC, RIC Leader, and Safety Officer

(G) Summary:

- (1) Why do we need a RIC?
  - a. Experience shows that Firefighters get into life-threatening situations and need quick assistance.
  - b. RICs are required by laws and regulations to be established to render that help.
- (2) Role and responsibilities of the:
  - a. Firefighter
    - 1) Must know how to summon help
  - b. RIC Leader:
    - 1) Perform continual size-up.
    - 2) Communicates with Command
    - 3) Gathers information
    - 4) Directs team personnel and activities.
  - c. Team personnel
    - 1) Perform continual size-up.
    - 2) Lay out tool and equipment cache
    - 3) Performs pro-active measures such as position ground ladders.
    - 4) Is ready to go to work.
- (3) What are the recommended tools and equipment?
  - a. Personal Equipment - Each Member
    - 1) Full PPE, including SCBA
    - 2) Personal Rope

- 3) Portable Radio
- 4) Flashlight
- b. Team Equipment
  - 1) Equipment tarp ("RIC Use Only")
  - 2) Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) and Spare Battery
  - 3) Search Rope, Rescue Rope, Life Safety Rope, & Webbing
  - 4) Rescue Air Supply (RIC Pack with 1 hour cylinder and universal connection)
  - 5) Forcible entry tools
  - 6) Stokes Basket
  - 7) Power Saws
  - 8) 8' - 10' Attic Ladder
- (4) What is the proper term used for RIC deployment?
  - a. MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY
- (5) To be a RIC Member is a physically demanding job. It requires proficiency in several capabilities.
- (6) RIC Members must have experience in the fire service as specified by local protocol; frequently two years minimum is set.

## APPENDIX 1

### References:

It is recommended that when preparing to teach this module, the Instructor conduct a current search of the Internet be made to find the latest regulations, articles, and reports.

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New Jersey Division of Fire Safety:

*Fire in New Jersey*, <http://www.nj.gov/dca/dfs>

Investigation Reports:

US Fire Administration, NFIRS Reports, <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/nfirs/index.shtm>

NIOSH: Firefighter Fatality Investigative and Prevention Program, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports>

New Jersey Administrative Code:

N.J.A.C. 5:73-2.1, Standards for educational programs

National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471,  
<http://www.nfpa.org>:

NFPA 1407, Standard for Training Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews

NFPA 1500, Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program

NFPA 1561, Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System

NFPA 1710, Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments

NFPA 1720 Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments

Occupational Safety and Health Administration, <http://www.osha.gov>

29 CFR 1910.34

Various New Jersey County's S.O.P's. and S.O.G's

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Training Materials:**

No specific training materials are specified. Many Eligible Organizations have course materials that meet the Guidelines.

## Rapid Intervention Crew Training Guidelines

### RIC Operations

The following are the Guidelines for Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) Operations Training. This training shall be presented as a stand-alone class at a Tier I Eligible Organization.

#### INTRODUCTION

The successful rescuing of a lost, trapped or missing firefighter requires a tremendous amount of dedication and preparation. Searching and removing one of our own at an emergency scene will challenge the best-trained firefighters.

Case studies over the years continually point to the lack of preparation and training to deal with these type emergencies. Having a dedicated Rapid Intervention Crew or company at an incident is one thing; having a highly trained crew or company(s) to handle this responsibility is another. Fire Departments must have dedicated procedures and training to handle a MAY-DAY.

Michael A. Terpak, Deputy Chief, City of Jersey City

<http://www.firegroundsizeup.com/bulletin4.htm>

#### OPERATIONS TRAINING GUIDELINES

The following are the minimum training guidelines, for Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) - Operations Level training in the State of New Jersey.

1. Pre-requisites
2. Minimum hours
3. Modules
4. Individual Module Competencies and Training Prop Pre-requisites

Certificates of training from Eligible Organizations (as listed by the Division of Fire Safety) may be accepted as proof of competency, for RIC Operations Level training.

#### Section 1. Prerequisites

The following are Pre-requisites for the RIC - Operations Training:

- (A) Successfully attend a minimum 3-hour lecture entitled RIC - "Awareness".

- (B) Be certified as a State of New Jersey, Division of Fire Safety, Firefighter, Level I
- (C) Be certified to Incident Management System Level I by Division of Fire Safety.
- (D) The Firefighter shall successfully demonstrate the ability to tie the following knots, prior to the Operations Training:
  - (1) “Hand Cuff” Knot
  - (2) “Figure of Eight” Series of Knots
  - (3) “Clove Hitch” Knot
  - (4) “Bowline” Knot
  - (5) “Water” Knot
- (E) The firefighter/student, for RIC Operations training should be physically fit to perform all of the modules.

## Section 2. Minimum Hours

The minimum number of hours, for Rapid Intervention Crew - Operations Level training shall be Twenty Four (24) hours.

- (A) A minimum of Four (4) hours for the lecture/classroom portion of the training
- (B) A minimum of Twenty (20) hours for the completion of the individual module competency training. (Hands-On)
- (C) A Tier I Eligible Organization may exceed the minimum number of hours for any approved Operational Level Training.

## Section 3. Modules

- (A) The following Modules are adopted as the minimum modules to provide an individual firefighter, who meets the prerequisites, the tasks necessary for RIC Operations level training:
  - (1) The “Nance” Drill
  - (2) The “Denver” Drill
  - (3) Below Grade to Grade level rescue/removal
  - (4) Upper floor removal (2<sup>nd</sup> floor and above)
  - (5) Individual rescue drags and carries
  - (6) Rope Assisted Search Techniques
  - (7) SCBA/ Respirator Air Management Techniques
  - (8) Communications



(B) An Eligible Organization may add additional, specific skill modules to this program.

#### Section 4. Individual Module Competencies

##### 1. THE "NANCE" DRILL / Thru the floor:

**(A) When participating in an elevated emergency egress or vertical lift scenario, the firefighter in training shall be secured by a belay line and a class 1 harness if one of the following applies (7.10.2).**

**(1) The firefighter is playing the role of the downed firefighter.**

**(2) The firefighter is participating in a self-rescue drill.**

(B) All Life Safety Rope shall be required to meet the N.F.P.A. 1983 Standard, as identified in Chapter 6, page 83, of that document.

(C) The individual Firefighter, working as a member of a Rapid Intervention Crew, consisting of a minimum of four members, shall:

(1) Demonstrate the ability to be lowered into a below grade situation by use of a Charged Hose Line.

(2) Demonstrate the ability to be lowered into a below grade situation by use of a Personal Rescue Rope.

(3) Demonstrate the ability to package and raise a firefighter, from a below grade setting, with the aid of a Charged Hose Line.

(4) Demonstrate the ability to package and raise a firefighter, from a below grade setting, with the use of:

a. Personal webbing or rope, using a tied loop or specific knot

b. Any hand tool as identified as part of a RIC Tool cache

c. Any approved harness or commercially available product

(5) Demonstrate the ability to package and raise a firefighter, from a below grade setting with the use of Life Safety Rope, with a minimum length of 50 feet, and the "Hand-cuff" knot technique. (To reduce any injury, the use of a manikin should be considered for this raise)

##### 2. THE "DENVER" DRILL / Thru the window

(A) The use of "Live" personnel, for victim removal, is permitted for the Denver Drill.

(B) The training prop for the Denver Drill shall be designed after the actual dimensions of the confined area that claimed 16-year veteran fire fighter Mark Langvardt's life in 1992. Specifically, it has:

(1) A "hallway" 28 inches wide and 8 feet long with;

- (2) A “window” at one end that is 20 inches wide by 28 inches in height and;
  - (3) The sill is 42 inches from the floor.
- (C) The individual firefighter, operating as a member of a Rapid Intervention Crew shall:
- (1) Perform a two person rescue of a downed/disorientated or lost firefighter, utilizing the “Denver” technique
  - (2) Perform the maneuvers of the rescue, from both the Head and Foot positions.
- (D) Additional RIC personnel are **required** at the exterior of the opening to assist with the removal of the “trapped” firefighter.

3. BELOW GRADE TO GRADE LEVEL RESCUE/REMOVAL:

- (A) The performance of the listed competencies, poses a significant hazard. “Live Victims” **can** be used in the training evolutions, but “Adult Sized” rescue manikins **are** required to **demonstrate** the following competencies.
- (B) All Life Safety Rope shall be required to meet the NFPA 1983 Standard, as identified in Chapter 6, page 83, of that document.
- (C) The use of “Commercially available products” (which are specifically designed to aid the individual firefighter during a below grade to grade rescue) by individual RIC Team members are permitted while performing the competency skills of this module.
- (D) The individual firefighter, operating as a member of a Rapid Intervention Team, shall demonstrate:
- (1) A Two Person, shoulder and leg lift and carry.
  - (2) A Three Person, shoulder and leg lift and carry. The three positions shall be identified as:
    - a. The leg position
    - b. The shoulder position
    - c. The rope/ webbing / approved commercial device position
- (E) The individual firefighter shall perform each rescue from the following positions:
- (1) The Shoulder position
  - (2) The Leg position
  - (3) The Rope or vertical top position
- (F) When possible, both a straight corridor and a change of direction corridor shall be used, during this module. The Minimum Separation, for this Module, shall be a single story. (Up or down)

#### 4. UPPER FLOOR REMOVAL:

- (A) The use of “Live” personnel, for victim removal, is permitted for this module. (To reduce any injury, the use of a manikin should be considered for this removal)
- (B) All Life Safety Rope shall be required to meet the NFPA 1983 Standard, as identified in Chapter 6, page 83, of that document.
- (C) Any personnel, who are removed from any upper floor (any opening which is greater in height than a single story), shall be attached to an approved Safety Rope using the “High Point Anchor Technique”.
- (D) After the students have become familiar with the drill, artificially generated smoke may be used at the vertical opening, to simulate a rescue performed during fire suppression operations.
- (E) The individual Firefighter, operating as a member of a Rapid Intervention Team, shall demonstrate:
  - (1) Removal of an injured, disorientated or unconscious firefighter, from an upper floor, via Ground Ladder, at a minimum height of Twenty Four (24’) feet by the following techniques:
    - a. The “Seated Shoulder Carry” technique
    - b. The “Across the arms” technique
  - (2) The individual firefighter, who performs the rescue from the ground ladder, shall remove an injured, disorientated or unconscious firefighter who:
    - a. Is utilizing or wearing SCBA
    - b. Is NOT utilizing or wearing SCBA
- (F) It is recommended that:
  - (1) The maximum number of stories, which are to be utilized as a prop, shall not exceed Two (2) Stories, for this removal.
  - (2) Each individual firefighter, who is performing the actual ladder rescue, performs the rescue first without and then with a SCBA.

#### 5. INDIVIDUAL RESCUE DRAGS AND CARRIES:

- (A) The use of “Live” personnel, for victim removal, is permitted for this module.
- (B) All webbing and Life Safety rope, used for this module, must meet the NFPA 1983 Standard as identified in Chapter 6, page 83, of that document.
- (C) The use of SCBA, by the firefighters who are performing the drags and carries is optional, at the discretion of the instructor.

- (D) The individual firefighter, operating as a member of a Rapid Intervention Team, shall demonstrate:
  - (1) A removal of a downed, unconscious or injured firefighter, from a simulated room or void space by the use of:
    - a. The SCBA harness and individual rescuer drag
    - b. As part of a Two person team, utilizing the SCBA harness
    - c. As part of a Two person team, utilizing two (2), Four Foot (4') Pike poles, through the SCBA straps
    - d. As an individual utilizing an "Approved", commercially available device
    - e. As an individual, utilizing specific, approved hand tools / rope or webbing
- (E) When operating in the Two Person setting, the individual firefighter shall perform each portion of the Two Person rescue from each position.
- (F) It is recommended that both smooth and rough surfaces be utilized during this module.

#### 6. ROPE ASSISTED SEARCH TECHNIQUES:

- (A) The performance of the listed competencies, poses a significant hazard. "Live Victims" **can** be used in the training evolutions. "Adult Sized" rescue manikins **may be used** to demonstrate the competencies of this module.
- (B) All webbing or Life Safety Rope used for this module shall meet the N.F.P.A. 1983 standard, as identified in Chapter 6, page 83, of that document.
- (C) The individual firefighter, operating as a member of a Rapid Intervention Crew, shall demonstrate in both a simulated Residential setting and a Commercial Building setting:
  - (1) The deployment of an Anchor Line, for a Rope Assisted Search, which has a MINIMUM length of Two Hundred (200') feet.
  - (2) The deployment of an individual Tag Line, connected to an Anchor Rope, which has a Maximum length of Twenty (20') feet.
  - (3) An individual search, of a Room or Space, from a Tag Line, in a Residential setting.
  - (4) An individual search, of a Room or Space, from a Tag Line, in a Commercial building setting.
  - (5) (Optional) The deployment of a "Commercially Available Product", which is specifically designed to aid a Rapid Intervention Team, during a Rope Assisted Search situation.
- (D) The use of artificially generated smoke and the use of SCBA during this evolution are recommended.
- (E) The anchor line should contain knots located along the line that can be used for tag line connections and directional aides. It is recommended that all Anchor Lines should contain:

- (1) A minimum of a single Knot, in the Anchor Line, at specific and uniformed lengths.
- (2) A Ring, on the inside of any Knot, to be utilized as a directional aide, indicating the path of Exit.
- (3) A Carabiner, located forward of the Knot(s), to be utilized as a Tag Line connection point.

#### 7: SCBA / RESPIRATOR AIR MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES:

- (A) The use of “Live” personnel, for victim removal, is permitted for this module.
- (B) All “Victims” and RIC Team members shall utilize SCBA, during this module.
- (C) The individual Firefighter, operating as a member of a Rapid Intervention Crew, shall demonstrate the ability to:
  - (1) **Replace mask mounted regulator on a downed firefighter**
  - (2) Exchange a SCBA cylinder, on an injured, disoriented or downed Firefighter, during a rescue situation
  - (3) Exchange a SCBA face piece, on an injured, disorientated or downed Firefighter, during a rescue situation
  - (4) Utilize a Supplemental Air Supply System (Buddy Breathing) on an injured, disorientated or downed Firefighter, during a rescue situation.
  - (5) Physically record, in writing, RIC Team member Air Consumption, Entrance Times, Working Time, and Exit Time.
  - (6) Conduct PAR (Personal Accountability Record) checks, at a specified time, during RIC Team activations.
- (D) Artificially generated Smoke can be used during this evolution.
- (E) The use of “Commercially available products” which are specifically designed to be part of a RIC Cache and are specifically designed to aid the individual RIC Team members are permitted while performing the competency skills of this module.

#### 8. COMMUNICATIONS:

- (A) The individual firefighter, operating as part of a Rapid Intervention Crew, shall:
  - (1) Demonstrate the use of a Hand-Held, Portable Radio, for Radio Assisted Feedback, to locate a downed, injured or disorientated firefighter.
  - (2) Demonstrate the ability, via portable radio and utilizing the L.U.N.A.R acronym, to provide information to the RIC Officer or Incident Commander, which enables a Rapid Intervention Crew to locate said individual.
  - (3) Demonstrate the ability, via portable radio, to effectively transmit a MAYDAY situation to the RIC Officer or Incident Commander, from a pre-determined location, in multiple types of structures.

- (4) Demonstrate the ability, as the RIC Officer to:
    - a. “Command” a RIC Team Deployment.
    - b. “Coordinate” activation of multiple Rapid Intervention Crews, during a single incident.
    - c. “Communicate”, via portable radio, with an Incident Commander, utilizing the Incident Command System, during a Rapid Intervention Crew deployment.
  - (5) Operating as a Rapid Intervention Crew:
    - a. Demonstrate the ability to efficiently set up and become “deployment capable,” at various types of Incidents.
    - b. Demonstrate and perform an effective “Size Up” for a Rapid Intervention Crew, at various types of incidents.
    - c. Demonstrate the ability, via portable radio, to inform an Incident Commander, the Rapid Intervention Crew is ready for potential deployment.
- (B) It is recommended that several “Types” of structures be used as props, during training for this module.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Training Materials:**

No specific training materials are specified. Many Eligible Organizations have course materials that meet the Guidelines.

## Rapid Intervention Crew Training Guidelines

### **RIC Team Training**

The following are the Guidelines for Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) Team Training.

#### Section 1. Credentials and Definitions

- (A) Any person who supervises or assists in any facet of the RIC Team Training shall meet the requirements for RIC Instructor as defined by the Rapid Intervention Instructor document (See page 26). All RIC Team Training instructors shall meet both the RIC Awareness and Operations Instructor Guidelines.
- (B) Rapid Intervention Crew: “A minimum of Four (4) personnel shall be assembled, in order to be recognized as a Rapid Intervention Crew.
  - (1) An individual Rapid Intervention Crew shall not have a maximum number of personnel.
  - (2) The four members of a Rapid Intervention Crew are not required to be from the same agency, though it is preferred.
  - (3) Each member of a RIC shall possess:
    - a. A certification as a Firefighter I
    - b. A certificate of completion of a RIC Awareness course.
    - c. A certificate of completion of a RIC Operations course.
    - d. A IMS Level I certification.
- (C) All Rapid Intervention Crews shall possess the necessary tools and equipment, consistent with accepted Rapid Intervention practices and these guidelines.

#### Section 2. Initial RIC Training Guidelines

##### Subsection 1. RIC Team Training: Definitions.

- (A) The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) retains the ability to “certify”, “designate”, or “classify” Rapid Intervention Crews for a particular municipality or geographic area who meet these guidelines.
- (B) For the purposes of Crew Training, a Crew shall consist of Four (4) individual members from a single agency or Four (4) members of different agencies, who will combine resources to form a regional RIC Team.



## Subsection 2. RIC Team Training: Pre-requisites for

- (A) Each member of a Rapid Intervention Crew shall demonstrate competency of the Operations Level skills, as defined in each of the 8 modules in the RIC Operations level course.

## Subsection 3. RIC Team Training: Skill Guidelines Recommendations:

- (A) All Teams shall attend and complete a minimum of a two (2) hour lecture on “Team Activation and Operation”
- (B) All Teams shall attend and complete a minimum of two (2) hours of individual skill review on the competencies as defined by the RIC Operations Level certification.
- (C) Upon completion of the Team training lecture and the skills review, all individuals, who are operating as a Team for the purposes of training, shall:
  - (1) Successfully Set-Up and Stand Ready as a Team, with a full cache of tools and equipment.
  - (2) Successfully Deploy as a Team and provide Rapid Intervention as a “Team” in a Scenario based evolution.
  - (3) Successfully demonstrate the ability of each Team member to perform the skill or skills necessary, during a scenario - based evolution, which are consistent with the skills learned in the RIC Operations level training.
    - a. There shall be no minimum hours required for the completion of the scenario-based evolutions.
    - b. There shall be no set minimum number or type of scenarios an individual team shall be required to train on.
    - c. A Team shall be considered competent when the Team successfully demonstrates the skill or skills needed to successfully mitigate the scenario or scenarios they are challenged with, during the Team training.
- (D) Recommendations for Team Training Scenarios:
  - (1) Disorientated Firefighter (Residential and/or Commercial)
  - (2) Structure Collapse (Partial / Full)
  - (3) Below Grade to Grade Rescue
  - (4) Upper Floor Removal of Unconscious Firefighter (Interior)
  - (5) Unaccounted for Firefighter.
  - (6) “Denver Drill” Scenario
  - (7) “Nance Drill” Scenario

## Section 4. RIC Team Training: Yearly Team Training Guidelines.

Once a Rapid Intervention Crew has been established, initially trained, and recognized by the Authority Having Jurisdiction:

- (A) All Rapid Intervention Crews shall complete a minimum of 16 hours of annual RIC Team Training.
1. A minimum of 12 of the 16 hours shall be in the form of Hands-On Training, as a Team.
    - a. Each Rapid Intervention Crew shall demonstrate annual competency in the 8 module skills, defined in the RIC Operations Level Training, during a Scenario based evolution.
  2. A minimum of four of the 16 hours shall consist of Classroom/Lecture training, as a Team.
    - a. Two of the Four Classroom/Lecture hours may be in the form of skill(s) review of the competencies obtained in the RIC Operational level training.
    - b. Credit, for the Lecture portion of the training, may be obtained from outside the Authority Having Jurisdiction, though the use of Seminars, provided a certificate of Rapid Intervention Training is awarded and the Seminar is a minimum of two hours.
- (B) Documentation:
- (1) All RIC Team Training shall be documented by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.
  - (2) All documentation shall contain the following, at a minimum:
    - a. Date of the Training.
    - b. The number of personnel who attended and completed the training.
    - c. The type of Training: (L = Lecture, H = Hands-on)
    - d. A description of the Training that took place.
    - e. The name of the person(s) who conducted the Training.

#### Section 5. RIC Team Leader and RIC Group Supervisor Qualifications

- (A) RIC Team Leaders
- (1) A RIC Team Leader shall meet all of the Guidelines for RIC Team Training, including Yearly Training
  - (2) A RIC Team Leader shall have obtained Incident Management Level 1 certification per NJAC 5:73-6.1
  - (3) A RIC Team Leader shall have successfully completed a Safety course of at least 12 hours.
  - (4) The Authority having Jurisdiction may establish additional requirements for a RIC Team Leader.
- (B) RIC Group Supervisor
- (1) A RIC Group Supervisor is an officer that supervises and/or commands more than one Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) at an incident.
  - (2) A RIC Group Supervisor shall meet all of the Guidelines for RIC Team Leaders
  - (3) A RIC Group Supervisor shall have obtained Incident Management Level II certification per NJAC 5:73-6.1.
  - (4) The Authority having Jurisdiction may establish additional requirements for a RIC Group Supervisor.

## APPENDIX 1

### **RIT Team Leader Checklist:**

This Checklist is adapted from a checklist included in an article “Rapid Responsibility” in *Fire Chief Magazine*, April, 2008, by Jeffrey Pindelski. The entire article can be found at [http://firechief.com/leadership/incident-command/rapid\\_responsibility\\_0401/index.html](http://firechief.com/leadership/incident-command/rapid_responsibility_0401/index.html)

When a RIC Group Supervisory has been designated, this Checklist can also be used.

In route to alarm:

- Monitor radio
- Consult/review preplan

On arrival, report to IC to ascertain:

- Location to stage equipment (usually primary entry point)
- Fireground operations radio channel and RIT radio channel
- Location of fire and volume
- Expected fire extension
- Fire company locations, how long have they been operating, and what progress they have made
- Resource sufficiency
- Type of accountability system in place

Conduct size up, make 360-degree circuit:

- Identify building construction and features
- Locate all doors and windows, removing any barriers
- Establish access to sides or rear of building
- Establish second way off of roof
- Raise additional ladders
- Look for signs of collapse

Post size up:

- Report findings and actions to the Safety Section Officer
- Monitor fireground radio for signs of trouble and progress
- Ensure EMS availability and establish communications

Survey closest engine to check availability of:

- Size and amount of hose
- Master stream devices
- Portable ladders

Survey closest ladder truck to:

- Ensure crew can operate aerial apparatus
- Determine portable ladder and specialized equipment availability

## Rapid Intervention Crew Training Guidelines

### **RIC Instructor Standards**

The following are the Guidelines for Standards for Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) Training Instructors. The Tier I Eligible Organizations shall make sure that all instructors teaching RIC Awareness and Operations courses meet these guidelines and provide the necessary Train-the-Trainer courses to their instructors who do not, before they can participate in the training.

#### Section 1. RIC Awareness Level

The minimum instructor qualifications, for any person, who will deliver a RIC Awareness lecture, are:

- (A) A Level I Instructor certification, as defined by the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, Office of Training and Certification, or equivalent.
- (B) Shall have completed a RIC Operations or F.A.S.T. Team Operations course, from a recognized or approved training entity that meets these guidelines.
  - (1) “Adjunct Instructors” shall be permitted to deliver the Awareness lecture provided the above qualifications can be met. An adjunct instructor, for RIC Awareness, shall include persons who possess equivalent certification meeting the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, Office of Training and Certification, Instructor Level I standard.

#### Section 2. RIC Operations Level

The minimum instructor qualifications for any person who will deliver RIC Operations training are:

- (A) The Lead Instructor or Instructor-in-Charge shall possess a State of New Jersey, Division of Fire Safety, Office of Training and Certification, Level II Instructor certification and Drill Ground Instructor Certification.
- (B) All RIC Operations Level Instructors shall have completed a recognized and approved Awareness and Operational certification training program meeting the attached guidelines.
- (C) There shall be a minimum of one Level II instructor, physically present, when the Operations level training is being delivered.
- (D) All instructors shall have a demonstrated competency, though, demonstration, experience, or training, for each module in which they instruct.

- (E) The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AJH) is permitted to require additional qualifications for the Operational Training, if it deems desirable.

### Section 3. RIC Team Training

The minimum instructor qualifications for any person who will deliver RIC Team training are set forth in the RIC Team Training Guidelines.

## Rapid Intervention Crew Training Guidelines

# RIC GUIDELINES FOR INCIDENT COMMANDERS

### Section 1. Purpose

- (A) To identify operational considerations for Company Officers and Incident Commanders relating to the use of Rapid Intervention Crews (RIC) whenever personnel are operating in environments which are "Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health" (IDLH).
- (B) The material contained in these Guidelines for Incident Commanders should be included in Fire Officer I training, N.J.A.C. 5:73-8.2(b). It can be included Emergency Service Delivery, Standard operating procedures for emergency operations.

### Section 2. RIC Operations During Normal Fire Operations

- (A) The RIC Team Leader will report directly to the Incident Commander (IC) upon arrival at the scene of the incident.
- (B) The IC will assign a radio frequency for the RIC team to the Team Leader.
- (C) The IC will brief the RIC Team Leader or Supervisor on the strategy for the incident.
  - (1) The RIC is reserved for immediate deployment to meet the needs of life threatening situations of other firefighters. Therefore, the RIC should not be assigned to other activities at any time.
  - (2) The RIC should not be used to provide relief for operating units until the fire/incident has been declared "under control" by the IC.
- (D) The RIC should not be used for firefighting. When the IC directs the RIC to work, whether to a distress call or other duties, an additional RIC should be immediately formed or special called.

### Section 3. When The RIC is Activated

- (A) Whenever a RIC is activated for its primary purpose of firefighter rescue, the IC must activate another team to be on standby. The new RIC must be briefed, perform a size up, and deploy an equipment cache.
- (B) When activated, the RIC will operate on a radio frequency previously assigned by the IC.

(C) Whenever any firefighter operating in an IDLH, is injured, trapped, unaccounted for, or is in any other life threatening situation, the IC must be notified. The notification will be through the established MAYDAY PROCEDURES.

(1) NOTE: An absent member of any crew will automatically be assumed lost or trapped until other wise determined to be safe.

(D) Upon such notification the IC shall call for the next alarm, up to and including a mutual aid request, and initiate a personal accountability roll call (PAR).

#### Section 4. Response To Mayday

(A) Assume the Firefighter is lost in the building

(B) Use URGENT or MAYDAY Radio Tone and Air Horns, as appropriate, to declare a MAYDAY

(C) Control the Radio, get immediate silence

(D) Request additional alarms/mutual aid

(E) Immediately initiate a PAR

(F) Assign a Chief Officer to the RIC effort. You cannot command the fire operations and the Mayday.

(G) Back up the RIC

## Rapid Intervention Crew Training Guidelines

# **MODEL SOP FOR RIC TEAM OPERATIONS**

This Model SOP is furnished for assistance to any AHJ in preparing "Best Practices" or "Standard Operating Guidelines" for its Fire Department. Other samples can be found by asking the Division of Fire Safety, County Fire Coordinators, or from an Internet search.

### PURPOSE:

To identify operational considerations relating to the provision of Rapid Intervention Crews (RIC) whenever personnel are operating in environments which are "Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health" (IDLH).

### GENERAL:

Fire service personnel are often required to operate in extremely hazardous conditions requiring safety measures that are equal to the hazards encountered. One simple fact that must be clearly understood, regarding the nature of extremely hazardous operations is that firefighters may need to be rescued. It is the policy of the local jurisdiction to provide as safe an environment as possible for the personnel, and as such, whenever personnel are operating in IDLH environments the incident commander (IC) shall designate a Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC).

### GUIDELINES:

#### Basic Concept:

1. To have at least one dedicated RIC available whenever personnel are operating in environments considered to be Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH). Additional RICs may be necessary due to the complexity and/or size of the building or incident.
2. A structure fire is the most common IDLH where it will be necessary to provide a RIC. There will be other incident types where IC may identify the need for a RIC, or where it may be necessary to provide support for a RIC from another agency.
3. The RIC must be in a state of readiness capable of making a rapid entry to an environment providing rescue efforts to personnel who are injured, trapped, or missing

#### The Team:

1. The RIC will be made up of no fewer than four (4) firefighters who are capable of operating without direct supervision.



2. The RIC will operate within the incident command structure and will be identified as a separate entity in the Personal Accountability System.
3. Personnel assigned to a RIC shall be equipped with full PPE including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). Each team member must have their SCBA face piece with them at all times and it must be in a condition capable of being donned immediately. For incidents other than structure fires, the PPE and equipment will be appropriate for the hazard.
- 4 The RIC team leader will report directly to the IC upon arrival at the scene of the incident.
- 5 The IC will assign a radio frequency for the RIC team to the team leader.

Responsibilities:

1. The Incident Commander will brief the RIC team leader on the strategy for the incident.
2. The RIC will need to perform a size-up related to its duties. The team shall be looking for potential problems, avenues of escape, points of entry, building construction type, scene conditions, safety hazards, and ought to gain any other information that may contribute to a successful outcome.
3. Specifically designated RIC equipment will be stored on an engine in an outside compartment. This compartment will be identified with the letters RIC in blue reflective material; each letter is to be six (6") inches tall. (SUBJECT TO THE RULES OF THE LOCAL JURISDICTION)
4. The RIC will need to assemble essential equipment at a designated location. This equipment must not be used for any other purpose than to be in a state of readiness for the RIC. The following is a minimum list of the equipment to be assembled:
  - RIC air supply bag containing: Complete SCBA setup including mask, and extended hose with universal connection, but without the harness.
  - Extra SCBA bottles
  - Charged hose line.
  - Portable radio for the victim
  - Portable hand lanterns
  - Flathead axe and Halligan tool
  - Rope for hoisting or as a guide
  - Power saws
  - Stokes basket
  - 8' - 10' attic ladder
  - Thermal Imaging camera and spare battery
  - Blue plastic tarp as the assembly point for tools and equipment
  - The RIC will have to assess the need for specialized equipment to be included in the cache. Consider distributor and piercing nozzles as effective tools in entrapment situations

- 5 The RIC is reserved for immediate deployment to meet the needs of life threatening situations of other firefighters. Therefore, the RIC should not be assigned to other activities at any time,
- 6 Whenever a RIC is activated for its primary purpose of firefighter rescue, the IC must activate another team to be on standby. The new RIC must be briefed, perform a size up, and deploy an equipment cache.

#### Activation of the RIC:

- 1 Whenever any firefighter operating in an IDLH, is injured, trapped, unaccounted for, or is in any other life threatening situation the IC must be notified. The notification will be through the established MAYDAY PROCEDURES.

NOTE: An absent member of any crew will automatically be assumed lost or trapped until other wise determined to be safe.

- 2 Upon such notification the IC shall call for the next alarm, up to and including a mutual aid request, and initiate a personal accountability roll call (PAR).
- 3 The RIC will be sent to the last working area of the crew or firefighter.
- 4 When activated the RIC will operate on a radio frequency previously assigned by the IC.
5. The RIC will operate using the "AWARE" principle. The AWARE acronym represents critical needs associated with firefighter rescue. The first two letters of the acronym are the most important initial components,
  - A** = Air
  - W** = Water. Provide a redundant Air supply and create a defensible space with Water using hose lines. Meeting these two basic requirements will buy valuable time for extrication. The next two letters stand for
  - A R** = A Radio. Getting a radio to the victim will allow you to assess the condition of the firefighter and to know if they were able to self extricate. Finally,
  - E** = Extrication. Extrication may take only a few minutes or several hours.
6. Call for additional resources early in the rescue process. As soon as the RIC is in the area and can make a reasonable assessment of the conditions, get help and any specialty equipment coming. Remember the initial RIC may consist of only four firefighters.
7. Extrication must be performed as rapidly as possible with a primary purpose on safety of those to be rescued and those doing the rescue tasks. Team members must be adequately trained and equipped for a variety of rescue techniques to assure success.

## APPENDIX 1

### Outline for an After Action Report:

#### RIC Reporting

- (A) In the event that the RIC is deployed for any reason, a written or typed report should be completed.
  - (1) This to be used as a learning tool and critique for the RIC Team and the IC.
- (B) The RIC Team Leader for the incident shall be responsible for completing the report.
- (C) The RIC Report shall be attached to a copy of the incident report.
- (D) The report should include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - (1) Date, Time, Address and Incident Number of the incident.
  - (2) Name of Firefighter (s) in distress and their location
  - (3) Conditions encountered prior to deployment.
  - (4) Conditions during rescue.
  - (5) Actions taken to perform the rescue.
  - (6) Approximate time involved performing the rescue.
  - (7) Number of Teams used to perform the rescue.
  - (8) Building design/area layout of the incident.
  - (9) RIC number and names of members.
  - (10) Other pertinent information
- (E) The RIC Report should be forwarded to the Incident Commander within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the incident.

## Rapid Intervention Crew Training Guidelines

### RIC Training Resources

It is recommended that when preparing to teach RIC classes, the Instructor conduct a current search of the Internet be made to find the latest regulations, articles, and reports.

U.S. Fire Administration/Technical Report Series

Special Report: Rapid Intervention Teams and How to Avoid Needing Them

*USFA-TR-123/March 2003*

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr-123.pdf>

Expansion of the Incident Command System in a "Mayday" Situation, By Shane Ray

[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/pdf/efop/tr\\_03sr.pdf](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/pdf/efop/tr_03sr.pdf)

Firefighter Fatality Retrospective Study April 2002/FA-220

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-220.pdf>

Evaluating the Amarillo Fire Department Mayday Guidelines

By Marcus Lusk, Deputy Chief, Amarillo Fire Department

[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/pdf/efop/tr\\_05ml.pdf](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/pdf/efop/tr_05ml.pdf)

Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute

Drill of the Month - November 2001

Firefighter Survival Awareness

[http://www.firehouse.com/training/drills/files/DM\\_0111.pdf](http://www.firehouse.com/training/drills/files/DM_0111.pdf)

Removing a Fire Fighter From a Tight Space with a High Windowsill

By Nick Sohyda

Mt. Lebanon Fire Department, Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania

The Denver Drill

[http://www.rapidintervention.com/media/monthly\\_training\\_topic/may2002/denver\\_drill.shtml](http://www.rapidintervention.com/media/monthly_training_topic/may2002/denver_drill.shtml)

Columbus Variation

[http://www.rapidintervention.com/media/monthly\\_training\\_topic/may2002/columbus\\_variation.shtml](http://www.rapidintervention.com/media/monthly_training_topic/may2002/columbus_variation.shtml)

Longboard Removal

[http://www.rapidintervention.com/media/monthly\\_training\\_topic/may2002/longboard\\_removal.shtml](http://www.rapidintervention.com/media/monthly_training_topic/may2002/longboard_removal.shtml)

Single Rescuer

[http://www.rapidintervention.com/media/monthly\\_training\\_topic/may2002/single\\_rescuer.shtml](http://www.rapidintervention.com/media/monthly_training_topic/may2002/single_rescuer.shtml)

Fireman's Carry

[http://www.rapidintervention.com/media/monthly\\_training\\_topic/may2002/firemans\\_carry.shtml](http://www.rapidintervention.com/media/monthly_training_topic/may2002/firemans_carry.shtml)

Web sites with good pictures of training on the Denver Drill:

<http://www.miamitwp.org/fireems/training/rit.htm>

<http://fallschurchvfd.org/photos/photos.asp?event=48>

Rapid Intervention Team - *Denver Drill*

Details on Station 19s Rapid Intervention Team used for the rescue of trapped firefighters.

[http://www.grovevillefire.com/department\\_pages/rit\\_denver\\_drill.php](http://www.grovevillefire.com/department_pages/rit_denver_drill.php)

Rapid Intervention Size-up

[http://www.fireengineering.com/display\\_article/351406/25/none/none/DRILL/Drill-of-the-Week:-Rapid-Intervention-Size-up](http://www.fireengineering.com/display_article/351406/25/none/none/DRILL/Drill-of-the-Week:-Rapid-Intervention-Size-up)

Rapid Responsibility

The RIC officer role usually is held by the company officer of the crew assigned to the RIC. This individual leads and directs the operations of the team and ensures that firefighters take proactive safety and egress measures on the exterior.

[http://firechief.com/leadership/incident-command/rapid\\_responsibility\\_0401/](http://firechief.com/leadership/incident-command/rapid_responsibility_0401/)

Also see the References in Appendix 2 to the requirements for RIC Awareness.