

SECTION II: FIREGROUND OPERATIONS AND FIRE RELATED DUTIES

2.10 RAPID INTERVENTION CREW (RIC) OPERATIONS

- 2.10.1 The objective of the Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) is to ensure that designated personnel are available on the emergency scene to assist trapped or distressed firefighters. It is also the intention of this SOP to fully comply with the OSHA "2 in and 2 out" rule, NFPA 1500 sections 6.5.1 through 6.5.6, NFPA 1561-1995 and District SOP # VI 6.7.4 & 6.710
- 2.10.2 A RIC shall be utilized at all working structure fires or rescue operations that place firefighters in jeopardy or any other situation the Incident Commander deems potentially hazardous to fire personnel at the scene. During special operations (HAZMAT, ice rescue, or confined space), the RIC shall be comprised of special operations qualified personnel.
- 2.10.3 The incident commander should utilize, during the initial phase of the incident, personnel on the fire grounds that are performing outside functions but ready to re-deploy to perform RIC functions. These members performing outside functions (ex: IC, safety officer, pump operator) shall not be used as RIC if abandoning their critical outside function jeopardizes any firefighter working at the incident. These members will act as the RIC until the designated RIC arrives at the scene. ***Exception:*** *When there is an immediate threat to life, all efforts may be utilized by the IC to affect a rescue.*
- 2.10.4 Apparatus assigned as a RIC within Washington Township or on automatic/mutual aid, shall have a minimum crew of four (4) SCBA qualified personnel. RIC assignments for extended incidents, commercial buildings, larger footprint facilities, or other complex situations should include a compliment of eight (8) or more qualified firefighters.
- 2.10.5 When the RIC assignment arrives on location, the RIC Officer shall report to the Command Post and check in with the Incident Commander unless otherwise directed. Typically the RIC reports directly to the IC, however in large scale operations the IC may assign the RIC to the Operations Section Chief, a Division Officer or a Branch Director. The RIC team shall make themselves familiar with the operations being conducted and should perform a scene size up including the following:
- Building size/Occupancy/Construction Type
 - Location of windows and points of egress
 - Location of ground ladders
 - Barriers such as fences & other obstructions
 - Time incident has been in progress
- 2.10.6 All RIC members shall have full PPE including SCBA, and should indentify and accumulate any specialized rescue equipment that may be needed given the

specifics of the incident. All members of the RIC should be equipped with a portable radio and shall monitor the fire ground frequency.

- 2.10.7 The RIC shall bring various tools and equipment carried on the particular apparatus assigned, including but not limited to; RIC bag, hand lights, thermal imaging camera, forcible entry tools, portable radios, rope, ladders and first aid supplies to a staging area. If the RIC does not have the necessary equipment on their apparatus they shall obtain it from apparatus already on the fire ground. The RIC shall also identify an undedicated hose stream of appropriate size and have the IC designate it for RIC use.
- 2.10.8 At a High Rise or large Commercial building incident or other large scale event, a location near the Operations Officer is the preferred location for the RIC. Additional RICs may also be established and strategically located as determined by the IC.
- 2.10.9 The RIC may perform some external horizontal ventilation if so directed by the IC while conducting the size up of the building. Any ventilation activity taken by the RIC must be carefully coordinated with other operating Divisions and authorized by the IC.
- 2.10.10 The staging area for RIC should be near the command post at a location where they can be readily deployed. The RIC staging area should be away from the Manpower staging area so there is no confusion about use of personnel.
- 2.10.11 While performing size up and with concurrence of the IC, the RIC may deploy ground ladders and clear obstructions in various division to provide for firefighter egress and to allow for RIC operations. The RIC will use radio designation "RIC" or "RIT" as determined by the IC. If the RIC is put into service, the Incident Commander shall implement procedures in accordance with SOPs and guidelines established for fire ground emergency operations.
- 2.10.12 When RIC is placed into service for rescue operations, all firefighting activities should continue unless otherwise ordered by the Incident Commander.
- 2.10.13 If the RIC is needed for tactical fire ground operations, the crew should be replaced immediately with a crew that has not been involved with the tactical operation up to that point.
- 2.10.14 When a RIC is assigned to a rescue operation, an additional RIC shall be established. Whenever possible, a Chief Officer should be assigned to the RIC.
- 2.10.15 The RIC shall remain intact and available for service until released by the IC.