



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT  
Standard Operating Guideline  
**RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM**

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Fire Chief Signature

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**Purpose:** This policy outlines the department procedure for the establishment of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT). This policy is written to comply with Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) regulation 29 CFR 1910.134, NFPA 1500 and NFPA 1561.

### Definitions

**Immediately Dangerous To Life Or Health (IDLH)** An atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life would cause irreversible adverse health effects or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

**Imminent Life-Threatening Situation** A situation in which immediate action is required to prevent the loss of life or serious injury before the team of four (4) firefighters and RIT Officer is assembled and an IRIC has been established.

**Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)** A team of at least four (4) firefighters plus RIT Officer on standby outside the structure to provide assistance or rapid rescue, if needed.

### Level 1 PPE

Department issued fire-fighting boots, bunker pants, coat, hood, helmet, gloves, and SCBA.

### Policy

**Establishment of RIT** The Incident Commander (IC) shall establish a RIT at any incident where personnel are required to operate in an IDLH and other incidents that present a high risk. The RIT shall either replace or include the personnel from the Initial Two In - Two Out crew (if previously established). The number, size and location of RIT teams at the scene should be flexible based on the incident's size and complexity. After evaluating the scene the IC shall provide one or more RIT teams based on the risk presented.

**Reporting to the scene** En-route, potential RIT teams shall monitor the proper fire-ground radio channel(s) to begin gathering information on the incident. Upon arrival, companies designated or assigned to the RIT function will bypass staging and report directly to the Incident Commander. The RIT shall report to the Incident Commander in Level 1PPE and with basic tools and equipment based on an initial size up of the building and consistent with the RIT team operations. Equipment shall be staged on a tarp in an area most readily accessible to potential rescues.

The RIT Officer will meet face-to-face with the Incident Commander to receive a briefing on the incident. The briefing should include the following information:

- What is the Incident Action Plan (offensive or defensive?)
- Significant events that have occurred
- How long have crews been operating in SCBA
- Location(s) of crews
- Other resources responding
- View of tactical worksheet



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Scene Size Up

The RIT is expected to perform an initial and on-going size up. RIT size up should be based on firefighter survival; on what may cause firefighters to be trapped, lost or become missing inside the structure, and how RIT can facilitate their escape or rescue.

Structure size up should include:

- Complete 360 degree walk around when possible
- Identifying hazards that will block or slow firefighter building evacuation
- Building construction, size, and occupancy
- Placement of windows and doors
- Placement of high security devices such as burglar bars
- Fire-ground tactics being used

RIT activation

RIT shall be activated at any time a firefighter(s) is reported to be lost, trapped, or unaccounted for. The RIT shall deploy to the known or suspected last location of the firefighter(s) in distress with appropriate tools and equipment for the situation. The Incident Commander shall initiate actions consistent with SOG 022, 'MAYDAY' and SOG 23 'Lost/Trapped Firefighters'.

Primary Tasks

The RIT shall be responsible for the following primary tasks:

- Scene size up
- Assemble minimum equipment at primary entry point
- Monitor radio and maintain contact with IC for quick response
- Assess where firefighters are working in structure and any special tasks assigned
- If situation dictates, open or cause to be opened any exit that is locked, blocked or nonexistent.

The RIT may complete additional activities providing it supports their primary tasks.

These tasks shall not include situations requiring direct entry into the IDLH environment or impacting the RIT officer's ability to focus on the status of interior operations. Task assignment shall take into account that the RIT should not be fatigued at any time.

If the incident is in a high or mid-rise structure, large area facility, or other areas with multiple IDLH atmospheres, the Incident Commander shall establish the necessary number of rapid intervention teams so that rescue can be accomplished without a deployment delay. A team should be considered for each remote access point on any large facility. The Incident Commander will be responsible for determining the number of teams needed based on the specifics of the incident.

If a RIT is activated, Command shall establish another RIT.