CARVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

Section 3.05 – Rapid Intervention **June 15, 2013**

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to establish a Rapid Intervention Team procedure within the Carver Fire Department Incident Command System, for the rescue of firefighters operating at emergency incidents.

1.1 SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to all incidents involving structural firefighting, rescue operations and incidents deemed necessary by the incident commander.

1.2 POLICY

To use Carver Fire Department firefighters when practical as R.I.T. members if a R.I.T is established at an incident. All members of the Carver Fire Department shall be trained in the following areas of Rapid Intervention:

Equipment used in R.I.T.
Search Techniques
Air Supply / Packaging the Victim
Victim Removal
Firefighter Survival Techniques

1.3 DUTIES

Operations of the R.I.T on the fire ground fall into two distinct categories but are not limited to:

01. Primary Function: Perform operations to assist firefighters in need, or perform search and rescue operations for lost or trapped firefighters.

02. Secondary Function: Perform operations to prevent a firefighter from becoming lost or trapped. Secondary prevention operations should be done in conjunction with the IC. Prevention Operations are accomplished by allowing the R.I.T to take "proactive actions" that allows firefighters to operate safely inside the hazardous area and to allow them to quickly exit, should fire conditions worsen.

Examples of Secondary Prevention operations include:

1. Size up of the structure
2. Setting up ladders to upper story windows
3. Removing obstructions from windows or doors
4. Horizontal Ventilation
5. Assisting with Hose line positioning
6. Shutting down utilities
7. Assess firefighter locations
8. Monitor radio transmissions
9. Monitoring fire ground changes
10. Assisting with SCBA bottles

1.4 EQUIPMENT FOR R.I.T MEMBERS

Members of the R.I.T. should be equipped with:

1. Full Turnout Gear
2. SCBA
3. SCBA Amplifiers
4. Rapid Intervention Air Bottle
5. Thermal Imaging Camera
6. Hand Light
7. 30' Rope Bag
8. Portable Radio
9. Door Stops
10. T-N-T Tool
11. Wire Cutters
12. Strobe Lights

Tools that the R.I.T should assemble and stage out of the way of the main firefighting activity area are:

1. Yellow tarp to place tools
2. Charged Hose Line
3. Chain Saw
4. Halligan Bar
5. Axe, extra hand tools
6. Stokes Basket
7. 300' Rope Bag
8. Blanket
9. Pencil Ladder

1.5 RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM PROCEDURES

01. The composition and structure of a R.I.T. shall be permitted to be flexible, based on the type of incident and the size and complexity of operations.

02. Rapid Intervention Team shall consist of at least two firefighters and shall be available for rescue of a member or a team if the need arises. Optimal R.I.T staffing should be 4 firefighters.

03. One member shall be the R.I.T. leader. The R.I.T leader should remain with the R.I.T and maintain radio contact with the incident commander.

04. Rapid Intervention Team members shall be fully equipped with the appropriate protective clothing, protective equipment, SCBA and any specialized rescue equipment that might be needed, given the specifics of the operation underway.

05. The incident commander, or his designee shall evaluate the situation and the risks to the operating teams and may provide one or more R.I.T's expanding with the needs of the situation. These teams can labeled R.I.T 1, R.I.T 2, etc.

06. The R.I.T. shall follow all adopted Carver Fire Accountability Procedures

07. Once a R.I.T is deployed, a second R.I.T should be established.

08. The R.I.T. shall within reason stay in contact with a hose line or rope line that is secured outside the Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) area.

09. The R.I.T. shall use practiced and accepted firefighter search techniques and equipment to find lost or downed firefighter(s).

10. The R.I.T. shall search for lost or downed firefighters with as little equipment as possible to maintain their rapid intervention quality.

11. Once the R.I.T. has found the lost or downed firefighter, they shall:

- If necessary, silence the PASS
- Perform a size up of the situation
- Report the status of the R.I.T. Operation
- If necessary, establish a supplementary air supply
- Immediately perform rescue operations