

The Woodlands Fire Department Operational Guidelines

F-05 - RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM

1.0 PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the formation and operation of Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT) when needed.

2.0 TEAMS

2.1 RIT will be assigned by the IC as soon as possible following the entry of fire fighting personnel into the designated Hazard Zone.

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2.2 RIT will be composed of a minimum of two TWFD personnel. If manpower permits, 3 to 4 is preferred.

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2.3 Each RIT member will have a portable radio.

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2.4 RIT will report to the Incident Safety Officer (ISO) if that position has been created. If an ISO has not been created, RIT will report directly to the IC.

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2.5 RIT will be in full protective gear with SCBA's. SCBA masks are not required to be worn while outside the Hazard Zone.

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2.6 If RITs are deployed to perform a lost firefighter search and rescue, the IC will immediately form additional RIT(s) as needed to relieve the deployed RIT or assist with the rescue portion of the operation.

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On all confirmed structure fires, two (2) additional engine companies may be requested by the IC or the first arriving company officer to assure enough manpower is present on location to accomplish all critical fire ground activities and maintain at least one RIT.

3.0 TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 RIT(s) will assemble as close to firefighting operations as possible yet not hamper or congest the operation.

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3.2 RIT(s) assemble equipment and tools that could be used in a rescue operation. Tools will be placed on a tarpaulin. Should an emergency arise, tools will be readily accessible.

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3.3 Equipment and tools will be removed from apparatus and made readily available for use as soon as the designated team arrives on location. Tools should be taken from

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apparatus other than the primary or secondary attack apparatus when possible.
Required equipment and tools include:

- A. Thermal Imaging Camera
- B. Axes – pick head/flat head.
- C. Halligan tool
- D. 2 SCBA's/Rescue Packs
- E. Portable lights
- F. Rescue Rope

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Recommended equipment and tools include:

- A. Gasoline powered chain saw/circular saw with metal blade.
- B. Sledge Hammer
- C. Air Bags
- D. Porta Power
- E. Cribbing material
- F. Shoring material

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3.4 After setting up equipment and tools, the RIT(s) will check all sides of the fire building looking for alternate escape routes, window and door layouts, and potential problems.

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3.5 RIT(s) will verify placement of ladders to the upper floors of the involved structure as a secondary means of escape.

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3.6 RIT(s) will verify rear and/or side doors are available (unlocked) and capable of being utilized as a secondary means of exit. RIT(s) will notify the ISO and/or the IC prior to opening doors, as this could affect ventilation efforts and fire spread.

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3.7 RIT(s) will verify that the scene is adequately illuminated. Lights will be placed inside, out of the way, at primary and secondary entrances.

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3.8 RIT(s) will periodically (15 – 20 minutes) perform a 360° size up of the fire building, noting changes in fire conditions and structural integrity. Noted concerns should be reported to the ISO and/or the IC.

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3.9 RIT members will monitor primary fire ground radio traffic and stay in communication with the ISO or IC at all times.

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3.10 If a Mayday is declared, the RIT(s) will:

A. Immediately communicate with the ISO or IC and determine the lost firefighter(s) last known location

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B. Turn the RIT passport over to the Accountability Officer

C. Enter the structure and begin their search in the lost firefighter(s) last known location

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D. Locate the lost firefighter(s)

E. Immediately silence any alarming pass devices

F. Verify the lost firefighter(s) has/have an adequate air supply and establish an air supply using the spare SCBA/Rescue Pack if necessary – air supplies, both lost firefighter(s) and RIT members, must be closely monitored throughout the rescue operation

G. Notify the IC (ISO if established) that the lost firefighter(s) has/have been located - This notification will include current Conditions in the area, Actions taken so far, and any additional Needs to free/extricate the lost personnel from the hazard area (CAN report)

H. Extricate the lost firefighter(s)

4.0 OTHER FIRE GROUND DUTIES

4.1 RIT members may be assigned other fire ground duties as long as those duties do not require excessive physical exertion, can be immediately stopped at any time and not negatively effect fireground safety, and do not interfere with the teams primary job functions as stated above.

4.2 Examples of such duties include:

A. securing utilities

B. marking/roping of scene hazards

C. establishing additional exterior lighting

D. setting up ventilation fans

E. assisting with accountability

F. assisting with rehab

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4.3 Under no circumstances will RIT(s) or RIT members be committed to any fireground duties without the direct knowledge and consent of the ISO and the IC.

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5.0 DEMOBILIZING RIT(S)

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5.1 The IC is the only individual that has the authority to demobilize RIT(s).

5.2 The IC will notify the ISO prior to demobilizing RIT(s).

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5.3 RIT(s) should only be demobilized when the structure is no longer considered immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH).

5.4 Prior to demobilizing RIT(s), The IC will ensure that all personnel are accounted for.

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