



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES
POLICY 401.00 – RAPID INTERVENTION CREW

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Subject: Rapid Intervention Crew

Purpose

1. To assure that Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) is implemented at structure fires; thereby, providing an immediate need rescue capability for all fire personnel.

Scope

1. While operating at structure fires that have an IDLH environment, decision regarding the establishment of the RIC shall be at the discretion of the Incident Commander. The utilization of RIC personnel and equipment for any other purpose is discouraged. The number of RIC(s) shall be driven by the needs of the incident as determined by the Incident Commander.
2. Establishing RIC should be considered on any incident where fire personnel are working within an IDLH.

Definitions:

- **CAN Report:** A statement of Conditions/Actions/Needs that gives Incident Command/Supervisors a concise situation reports and resource need request.
 - **EMERGENCY TRAFFIC:** radio broadcast alerting all personnel operating at incident of a real or potential firefighter hazard. Criteria for using Emergency Traffic may include, but is not limited to; a Mayday situation, potential structural collapse, rapidly changing fire conditions, clearing tactical/command radio channels etc.
 - **IDLH:** Immediately dangerous to life and health. All interior structure fires, beyond the incipient phase, are considered IDLH and require appropriately equipped full PPE firefighters and 2in/2out.
 - **MAYDAY:** A term used only to signify that a person is in a life-threatening situation and needs immediate assistance. A fire fighter emergency can be declared by anyone having knowledge of someone in distress.
 - **NUCAN report:** A statement from a distressed firefighter indicating *Name, Unit, Conditions, Actions, and Needs* that provides incident commander a concise situation report and helps direct RIC resources. A PAC Assessment will be performed on the distressed firefighter once located by RIC:
 - i. **P - Person** – Is this the person you’re looking for?
 - i. PASS Device – Silence it
 - ii. Portable Radio – Turn the downed firefighter’s portable radio off to reduce radio interference.
 - ii. **A - Air** – Check the downed firefighter’s air supply
 - i. Assessment – Checking for entrapment or entanglement
 - ii. Actions – What you are doing with the downed firefighter
 - (2) Air options
 - (3) Packaging type
 - (4) Location of exit points
 - iii. **C - Communicate** a CAN report based on the information gathered from the PAC assessment.
- **PAR:** Personnel Accountability Report, a report provided by the supervisor indicating the status of the company. The Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) is a roll call procedure



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- initiated by Command to confirm that all personnel assigned to an emergency incident are physically accounted for. Responses to a PAR will be in the following format: Unit Number, Number of Personnel, and Current Assignment.
- **RIC:** Rapid Intervention Crew; a crew standing by in a ready state to immediately react and deploy to rescue injured, trapped or lost emergency personnel. RIC consists of a minimum 2-4 person crew and typically is established after 2 in/2 out is met.
 - **Softening the building:** The act of prepping a structure, enhancing access/egress (including forcing doors and windows while maintaining flow path restrictions), and clearing a pathway around the structure to make the interior more accessible and tenable. Softening should be coordinated with interior operations and not negatively impact fire conditions.
 - **2 in/2 out:** Must be established by first arriving crews when faced with IDLH or potential IDLH atmospheres. When operating in and around hazardous environments two members are required to remain outside the IDLH, ready to provide assistance to the members inside the IDLH. 2 in/2 out is NOT RIC. Refer to OSHA for additional requirements of 2 In/2 Out.
 - **RIC Group Supervisor:** Rapid Intervention Crew direct supervisor designated by the IC to supervise all RIC crews and operations. This may be a company/chief officer or qualified designee. Refer to SFT RIC Operations for additional requirements for the RIC Group Supervisor.

Operational Guideline

Incident Commander Responsibilities

- Determine if RIC is necessary; if yes:
 - i. Establish a RIC and assign a RIC Group Supervisor (may be the Company Officer of assigned engine company). The RIC Group Supervisor will manage the firefighter rescue in event of RIC deployment or will oversee multiple RIC crews (RIC Crew 1, or RIC DIV 2) when building size or location requires multiple RIC companies. If no RIC Group Supervisor is established, Command will be tasked with managing the firefighter rescue in addition to fireground activities.
 - ii. RIC personnel and equipment allocated for non-RIC tasks should be discouraged. When a confirmed civilian rescue is communicated, RIC may deploy if no other resources are available. If deployed, RIC should be immediately replaced.
- If a Firefighter requires the use of RIC, it will be Incident Commander's responsibility to acknowledge the firefighter's Mayday, declare Emergency Traffic and maintain communication with the firefighter. Command should attempt to gather NUCAN information and ask the firefighter to activate the PASS device.
- Incident Commander will activate RIC; all rescue activities will remain on primary tactical frequency.
- All other resources will remain on the primary tactical frequency and exercise radio discipline. Radio Discipline will maintain until the IC declares the rescue complete. Fire ground resources may be directed to move radio traffic to a pre-established secondary TAC channel. If communications are changed, a PAR will be conducted on the secondary channel.
- Incident Commander should consider the resources necessary to rescue a firefighter, assign additional companies to the RIC Group Supervisor, and request additional



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resources through dispatch if needed. A second RIC should be established and be ready to complete the search or remove the firefighter after rotation of the first RIC.

RIC Group Supervisor Responsibilities

1. Conduct a size-up with crew of the structure involved.
2. Create tool cache and communicate location to Incident Commander.
3. Tool cache includes at minimum: spare cylinders, search rope, rescue and forcible entry tools.
4. Determine which make of SCBA is in use by interior crews and plan for cylinder or mask adaptability.
5. Soften the structure.
6. Consider lighting entrance points and placing ladders to multiple floors and/or roof.
7. After the initial acknowledgment by Command of the firefighter emergency, the RIC Group Supervisor is the key position in communicating with the firefighter(s) needing rescue, the RIC, Command and additional RIC established. All communication will occur on the primary tactical frequency.
8. RIC should decide on the best point of entry and appropriate equipment needed. RIC should be aggressive in their actions and maintain constant accountability and clear communication with Incident Commander or RIC Group Supervisor.

Post Incident Analysis:

1. A post incident analysis (PIA) shall be filed with the Fire Chief within 30 days after any RIC activation for firefighter rescue by the Incident commander.

Date	Revision	SLO T/O Pres.	SLO Co. Chief Pres.
10/03/17	Updates approved by T/O and Co. Chiefs	<i>M. Miranda</i>	<i>S. Jalbert</i>