

	<h1><b>COMMERCE FIRE DEPARTMENT</b></h1>
	<h2>Standard Operating Guidelines</h2>
	<b>Subject:</b> Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)
	<b>Reference Number:</b> 3.04
	<b>Effective Date:</b> 3/6/2014 <b>Last Date Revised:</b> N/A
<b>Approved By:</b> Chief Kevin Dean	

**Purpose:** The purpose of this standard operating guideline is to provide a guideline for Commerce Fire Department personnel in establishing a Rapid Intervention Team(s)

**Scope:** This Standard Operating Guideline shall apply to all members of Commerce Fire Department.

**Terminology:**

Rapid intervention team: "On-scene team of at least two members designated, dedicated and equipped to affect an immediate rescue of firefighters if the need arises."

**Procedures:**

- 1 The Rapid Intervention Team should prepare for rapid rescue of crew members by being fully equipped with appropriate protective equipment, SCBA, search rope, TIC camera, RIT air pack, light, radio and any additional specialized rescue equipment needed, based on the specifics of the operation underway, and:
  - a. Stage equipment on tarp carried on all trucks.
  - b. Constantly monitor communications with the interior crew(s) and the supervisor to whom they report, and
  - c. Perform a walk around of the structure to evaluate it for potential rescue, secondary egress points, and the need for proactive actions, and
  - d. Develop a rescue plan, and
  - e. Constantly monitor structure for changing conditions and notify Incident Commander of potential hazards, and
  - f. Take action in accordance with direction given by the Incident Commander or their supervisor as assigned within the Incident Command (ICS/IMS) System, and
  - g. Maintain dedication to rescue assignment and team integrity.

## **Scope:**

1. The Incident Commander shall evaluate the situation and risks to operating crews giving first and primary consideration to providing a rapid intervention team(s) commensurate with the needs of the situation.
2. The Incident Commander shall not permit the Rapid Intervention Team(s) to be involved in functions other than accommodating firefighter rescue (i.e. setting additional means of egress or lighting would be appropriate)
3. The Incident Commander shall remain flexible as to the number and location of Rapid Intervention Team(s), based on the type, size and complexity of the incident operation.

## **APPENDIX: GUIDELINES FOR LOST OR TRAPPED FIREFIGHTERS**

If a firefighter finds him/herself lost or trapped, taking the appropriate actions can improve their survivability. Their first action is to clearly communicate their situation using the term "Mayday" followed by Location, Unit number, Air Supply, Resources needed to rescue them.,

### **Actions by Lost or Trapped Firefighters:**

1. Uses radio to transmit "Mayday," alerting others to their situation while attempting to find a way to safety.
2. Transmits their situation as concisely as possible including location (if known), special rescue needs and other pertinent information such as amount of air remaining in SCBA.
3. Manually activates the PASS device if device has not already sounded.
4. Tries to control emotions, slows breathing, and avoids unnecessary physical activity to conserve air supply,
5. Attempts to locate other crew members in the immediate vicinity, assessing their situation and assisting them as possible.
6. Attempts to locate near a window for possible self-rescue or as a means to signal rescuers.
7. If a window is not available, tries to reach an exterior wall to aid searchers, or a hallway which usually leads to an exit.
8. Uses a hose line and the direction of hose couplings to find the correct direction out of the building.
9. If power is still available, turns lights on and off to signal searchers.
10. If a way out can't be located, finds a safe location that offers protection from the fire and control measures. Example: avoids areas where water may accumulate, such as a basement.
11. Tries to position him/herself to allow for maximum volume of the PASS device.
12. Maintains crew integrity, situational awareness and prevents free-lancing.

### **Actions by Senior Officer**

1. Ensures that an On-Scene accountability (PAS Tags) system is in use and is accountable for all crew members.
2. Immediately reports any missing personnel to the Incident Commander, concisely communicating pertinent information.
3. Prevents free-lancing by crew members.

### **Actions by Incident Commander**

1. Transmits a "Firefighter Down" message and communicates a Mayday Communications Plan by moving all other fire ground radio traffic to another channel.
2. Initiates an emergency roll call to determine the number of firefighters accounted for and those missing while;
3. Simultaneously activating a rescue team immediately, deploying them to the most appropriate location to begin search and rescue activities.
4. Assigns a RIT Supervisor and monitors the channel if one is assigned to the rescue effort. Assigns an additional RIT team(s) after launching the original RIT.
5. Assigns a Safety Officer to assist with assessing and monitoring the safety of the overall scene and the rescue operation.
6. Requests additional alerts (including Paramedics) as necessary to ensure adequate resources for medical treatment, RIT and relief/rehab of working crews.
7. Provides for a continuous fire attack, protecting the lost/trapped firefighters from fire conditions.
8. Is prepared to "write off" other portions of the building if necessary, to concentrate on firefighter rescue.
9. Considers the use of positive pressure ventilation to maintain (or increase) tenability of the structure.
10. Provides additional lighting to assist with rescue efforts as needed.
11. Ensures that a medical area is established based upon potential need.

### **Actions by Safety Officer**

1. Ensures that the On-Scene (PAS Tags) Accountability system is in place and functioning properly and members are not free-lancing.
2. Continually monitors the building for structural stability.
3. Keeps Incident Commander informed of safety concerns.