

MABAS DIVISION V

Standard Operating Guidelines	Creation Date: 2-12-03
Subject: Rapid Intervention Team(s) “RIT”	Revision Date: 8-20-03
Approved By: MABAS Division V Chiefs Board	Latest Revision: 12-19-07

PURPOSE: To provide a rescue team that **builds** on the Illinois Department of Labor’s (IDOL) Respiratory Protection requirements, commonly referred to the “2in/2out” policy. The Rapid Intervention Team (hereafter referred to as RIT) will include a minimum of at least three trained firefighters, preferably four (see Appendix C for training guide), for the sole purpose of locating and rescuing fire personnel reported to be in distress, injured, trapped or missing. To help Mutual Aid companies understand their roles if assigned as a RIT.

SCOPE: This guideline encompasses all emergency environments including those considered an Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) atmosphere. Special response teams may require their team’s policy override the firefighter RIT guideline. The Incident Commander (IC) must assure, regardless of the type of incident, that a RIT is in-place and appropriately equipped to rescue any firefighters in distress.

STANDARD THAT SPECIFY RAPID INTERVENTION “RIT”

- OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134 Respiratory Protection
 - IDOL Respiratory Protection

REQUEST FOR MABAS DIVISION BOX ALARM

- A Rapid Intervention Team will be sent at the box level for any MABAS Division V request, which falls under IDOL Respiratory Protection requirements.
- A Chief Officer (captain & above) will be assigned at the box level and be directly responsible for RIT operations. He/She will be assigned as the RIT Leader within the Incident Command System, and will be considered the RIT Leader for the purposes of the remaining sections.
- The RIT Leader will be accountable for the RIT, support to the RIT, and any additional assigned RIT’s if needed.
- The stricken fire department shall provide for the rescue of individuals operating at emergency incidents.

Activation/Implement Assigned RIT

Definition of Activation: Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) and Rapid Intervention Team Leader (RIT Leader) will be activated at any time a firefighter(s) is reported in distress, missing, or unaccounted for. Incident Command will inform the RIT/Leader to deploy with appropriate tools and equipment for the situation. The RIT and RIT Team Leader will deploy to the area where the firefighter(s) are in distress or the specific (if known) location of the firefighter(s).

Procedure:

- Command (or designee) will inform RIT and/or RIT Leader on specific information pertaining to firefighter(s) rescue situation.
- Notify Division V Communication Center of Emergency Traffic/Mayday situation.
- Consider upgrading alarm based upon available resources in staging.
- Consider ordering an EMS Box Alarm based upon available resources in staging.
- Assign new radio frequencies to all other Divisions/Leaders operating on the fire ground that are **not in distress (Red/White/Blue)**. The distressed firefighter(s) will remain on the frequency that they're currently operating on. RIT operations will operate on the frequency that the distressed firefighter(s) are operating on.
- Request firefighter(s) in distress (if capable) to activate PASS device.
- Request an immediate PAR from Divisions/Leaders.
- Do not allow Divisions/Leaders or firefighters to evacuate or abandon their positions (to assist with the firefighter rescue) unless the Incident Commander gives the order. Other fire scene operations must be maintained, so the RIT can perform their specific tasks.
- Divisions/Leaders in the immediate area of the firefighter rescue must inform command of their activity (can they assist with the rescue? If so, command must give approval).
- Replace initial RIT with second RIT.
- Assign a company or companies as **RIT Support** to establish a tool and personnel staging area to be used specifically for firefighter rescue.
- RIT Support Company will report to the RIT Leader.
- Incident Commander to consider (appendix A & B) check-off sheets for Emergency Traffic and Mayday situations.

Appendix A

CHECK-OFF SHEET MAYDAY:

If Mayday traffic is requested – Announce over the radio “**ALL COMPANIES CLEAR THE RADIO, WE HAVE MAYDAY TRAFFIC**”.

- Ask for the following information, based upon the **LUNAR** acronym:
 - **Location:** _____
 - **Unit:** _____
 - **Name:** _____
 - **Assignment:** _____
 - **Resources Needed:** _____
- Perform risk analysis: What is the possibility of a secondary catastrophic event?
“Communicate with the safety officer”
- Brief the RIT Leader (if known – include all of the above) on specific information pertaining to firefighter rescue.
- Notify Division V Communication Center of Mayday situation.
- Consider upgrading alarm based upon available resources in staging.
- Consider ordering an EMS Box Alarm based upon available resources in staging.
- Assign new radio frequencies to all other Divisions/Groups operating on the fire ground that are **not in distress (Red/White/Blue)**. The distress firefighter(s) will remain on the frequency that they were currently operating on. RIT operations will operate on the frequency that the distressed firefighter(s) are operating on.
- Request firefighter(s) in distress (if capable) to activate PASS device.
- Request an immediate PAR from Divisions/Leaders.
- Communicate with Divisions/Leaders and require them to hold their tactical positions (support firefighter rescue by putting the fire out).
- Replace initial RIT w/second RIT.
- Assign companies (RIT Support) to establish tool and personnel staging area specific to firefighter rescue(s) “RIT support will report to the RIT Leader”

Appendix B

CHECK-OFF SHEET EMERGENCY TRAFFIC:

If EMERGENCY traffic is requested – Announce over the radio “**ALL COMPANIES CLEAR THE RADIO, WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY TRAFFIC**”

- Ask for the following information, based upon the LUNAR acronym:
 - **Location:** _____
 - **Unit:** _____
 - **Name:** _____
 - **Assignment:** _____
 - **Resources Needed:** _____
 - **Immediate evacuation of building may be necessary by any of the above situations or any other circumstance, which the incident commander feels appropriate.**

(Apparatus drivers will sound 5 air horn blasts to alert members on scene)

- Perform risk analysis: What is the possibility of a secondary catastrophic event?
“Communicate with the safety officer”
- Brief the RIT Leader on changing fire conditions or problems occurring.
- Notify Division V Communication Center of Emergency Traffic situation.
- Request an immediate PAR from Divisions/Leaders.
- Consider upgrading alarm based upon available resources in staging.
- Notification to utility companies, public works, special teams, etc., if needed.