

Lake County Fire Service Standard Operating Guidelines

Rapid Intervention Crew Emergency Incident Procedures	SOG: 010 Effective Date: April 1, 2011 Supersedes: Approved: <hr/> President, Lake County Association of Chiefs of Fire Page 1 of 4
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1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this guideline is to increase the level of safety for fire department personnel while operating at emergency situations.
- 1.2 This guideline identifies the requirements for operation of a Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) during a working fire or other special hazardous operation areas.

2.0 DIVISIONS AFFECTED

- 2.1 All fire department personnel.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITY

- 3.1 All Officers are responsible for complying with and ensuring that personnel under their command are adequately trained, fully understand and comply with this guideline.
- 3.2 All members have the responsibility to learn and follow this guideline.

4.0 PROCEDURE

- 4.1 The objective of the Rapid Intervention Crew is to have fully equipped rescue crews on site, in a ready state, to immediately react and respond to rescue injured or trapped firefighters or civilians.
- 4.2 This guideline will be implemented at all working fires and other incidents where fire department personnel are subject to hazards that would be immediately dangerous to life and/or health in the event of an equipment failure, sudden change or conditions, or mishap. Examples would be, but not limited to:
 - A. Any incident presenting significant risk.
 - B. Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH)
 1. For the purposes of this guideline, this means any environment where operating personnel are exposed to conditions that could result in immediate, debilitating effects to personnel.

2. These environments may include toxic atmospheres, atmospheres with reduced visibility, degraded structural conditions, or confined spaces.
- C. Initial Stages of an Incident
1. Includes the period of an incident when tasks are being undertaken by the first arriving company, with only one (1) team operating within the IDLH environment, for the purposes of performing victim rescue or determining the need to perform victim rescue.
- D. Early Stages of an Incident
1. Includes the period of an incident following the initial stages of an incident. This period of an incident is indicated by having more than one (1) team operating within the IDLH environment.
- 4.3 Command will assign an appropriate engine company, truck company, or crew, plus an ALS squad, when RIC has been deployed for RIC duties at the incident. A Rapid Intervention Crew will normally be no less than two (2) firefighters. The preferred number of firefighters for a RIC in any large building, including large, multi-story residential, is four per point of entry. It will be Incident Command's discretion regarding the number of firefighters in the RIC. The RIC will be a fresh group of firefighters that normally will not be rotated with firefighting companies. The ALS unit will be in addition to any other units that are needed for transportation of the injured civilians at the incident. A minimum of one (1) company or crew and one (1) ALS unit with crew is required. ALS unit will be maintained for RIC; if the on-scene unit transports a patient, another ALS unit will be summoned to the scene to support RIC.
- 4.4 When a distress call is received by the Incident Command, vital information must be accessed for RIC deployment:
- A. Number of firefighters in trouble
 - B. Location or last known location
 - C. Unit number(s)
 - D. Nature of problem (i.e. collapse, lost, etc.)
 - E. Time operating
 - F. Best entry point
 - G. Was unit operating with hose line or rope
- 4.5 When RIC has been activated, Command will notify Dispatch immediately and request additional resources to the scene (i.e. additional engine or truck companies). This can be accomplished through the use of Mutual Aid / MABAS / Ohio Emergency Response System, as appropriate. Another RIC team will be established.

- 4.6 When RIC has been activated, all non-essential fire ground activities will cease and rescue efforts given the utmost priority. Once RIC operations have been completed, RIC will be replaced with new firefighters.
- 4.7 Command may assign more than one (1) crew for RIC duties, if necessary. For extremely hazardous rescues there will be a minimum of four (4) rescuers on standby for each firefighter involved in direct rescue efforts.
- 4.8 Personnel assigned to the RIC should have appropriate training necessary to perform RIC functions. Necessary training levels will vary depending on the incident. Command will assign the team as the RIC Group.
- 4.9 Command will normally determine the standby location for RIC near the Command Post, at an entry point, or other selected location(s) that would give the RIC the best entrance. All crew members will assume a proactive, ready state, including full protective clothing and SCBA. For other types of incidents, the protective clothing and equipment will be appropriate for the hazards. The RIC officer will closely monitor the assigned radio tactical channel at all times. The crew must be able to react immediately to a sudden emergency at the incident.
- 4.10 The RIC should be reserved for immediate life threatening situations, such as a firefighter lost, trapped or injured, or other critical situations. The crew could also be assigned to a civilian rescue situation, if needed. During the course of an incident, Command may elect to assign the RIC to a tactical function, but must immediately replace the team with another company, as long as the hazardous situation continues.
- 4.11 If the RIC is needed to respond to a sudden emergency in which the division or branch officer is incapacitated (physically or mentally), the RIC leader will assume responsibilities for the area in which the emergency exists. Command should be notified of the transfer of division or branch responsibilities and should assign an officer to replace the RIC leader. Additional resources, including additional alarms, will be requested and sent to the rescue area as the emergency dictates.
- 4.12 Functions that can be performed by RIC while waiting to be activated:
 1. Put up ladders on all four (4) sides of the building
 2. Set up lights at the doorways and fire ground in general.
 3. Clean out broken windows
 4. Open any locked or barred exit doors or windows
 5. Continue scene size-up
 6. Disconnect utilities, if needed
 7. Any function that can keep the interior/exterior crews in a safer work environment
 8. Procurement and staging of necessary equipment
 9. Monitor the number, location and condition of operating crews

4.13 Radio designations for the RIC(s) shall be “RIC 1”, “RIC 2”, etc. When relieved of their RIC functions, the crew shall resume their normal radio designations and accountability designation.

4.14 Tools needed:

- A. Pick head axes
- B. All purpose hooks
- C. Eck hook
- D. Circular saw with appropriate blade
- E. Ventilator chain saw
- F. Halligan bar, sledge hammer
- G. Search rope
- H. Hand lights
- I. Spare SCBA (include appropriate spare face piece)
- J. Hose line
- K. Ground Ladders
- L. Bolt Cutters
- M. Howd Straps
- N. Portable radios for each RIC member
- O. RIC bag from engine

Tools will be situation dependent. The size, and how long the fire has been burning, will determine what tools are needed.

4.15 The leader of the RIC should do a size-up, monitor Tac channels, location of units/members and their egress/access, progress reports, and needs.