

## EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

### Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines

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SUBJECT: Rapid Intervention Teams (RITs)

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APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWED: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*George F. Hooker*  
Board Chair

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#### POLICY:

- 1.1 It is the policy of East County Fire & Rescue to establish and utilize a Rapid Intervention Team(s) to protect Fire Fighters engaged in hazardous conditions.

#### PROCEDURE:

- 2.1 The Incident Commander shall establish a RIT as soon as possible into these events, but **MUST have at least one interior qualified Fire Fighter assigned outside the hazard area (rescue situations: 2-in, 1-out) or at least two interior qualified Fire Fighters assigned outside the hazard area (non-rescue situations: 2-in, 2-out) prior to sending fire attack teams into structures with fire incidents occurring beyond the incipient phase.** Examples of such events are:
- Structure Fires
  - Haz Mat Incidents
  - Trench Rescue Incidents
  - Confined Space Rescue Incidents
  - Any other incident posing significant risk to Fire Fighters.
- 2.2 More RITs may be added due to the size of the building, number of access points used by crews, or complexity of the incident. **THINK ABOUT MULTIPLE RITs, if needed.**
- 2.3 The IC shall establish a **new RIT** any time a current RIT is sent in. The IC shall **request an additional alarm** to provide adequate resources for both Fire Fighter rescue and incident stabilization.
- 2.4 A RIT shall consist of **AT LEAST TWO (2)** entry-level Fire Fighters immediately available for the rescue of other Fire Fighters. **Consider two teams of two Fire Fighters** for more options. As manpower allows, or when the incident grows to a **2<sup>nd</sup> or greater Alarm**, raise the minimum RIT staffing to **FOUR (4) Fire Fighters.**
- 2.5 Fire Fighters assigned to a RIT will:
- Be ready to **IMMEDIATELY** enter a building and perform a rescue
  - Have SCBA donned, with mask hanging around neck in the **STANDBY** mode
  - Be with the IC at the command Post, or where assigned
  - Be closely monitoring radio traffic to know the status of crews on the scene (interior, ventilation, search & rescue, etc.).
  - **Respond only when assigned by the IC**
  - Have with them the minimum equipment listed below:
    - Stokes Basket (Hose Strap attached as a handle)

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- Extra SCBA (with Buddy Breather Tube)
- Extra SCBA bottle
- Portable Radio (on proper channel) 1 radio@2 Team-members
- Hand Tools (Halligan, Axe, etc)
- Large orange flashlight
- Power Saw
- Access to a charged hoseline—prefer second pumper/water source
- Optional: Utility Rope
- Other equipment required by IC