



Standard Operating Guideline

Rapid Intervention Company (RIC)



OBJECTIVE

To establish a standard operating guideline for Rapid Intervention Company (RIC) Operations

POLICY

While operating at structure fires and other identified applicable incidents, the appropriate level of RIC shall be provided as determined by the Incident Commander. The decision regarding the establishment, and demobilization, of RIC shall be at the discretion of the Incident Commander.

DEFINITION

The RIC should be established for the express purpose of providing an immediate need rescue capability for all fire personnel operating on a specific incident, but *should not* be utilized or considered to supplant California Occupational Safety & Health Administration (CAL OSHA's) mandated *two in-two out* regulation.

The term "MAYDAY" has been designated as the radio broadcast for alerting all personnel operating at an emergency incident of a distressed Firefighter. Criteria for invoking a "MAYDAY" may include, but is not limited to personnel within a structure fire; trapped, disoriented or lost within the structure, believed to be missing within the structure.

PROCEDURE

Levels

1. The level of RIC shall be determined by the IC.
 - a. **Level 1** – RIC should be comprised of (1) Engine Company
 - b. **Level 2** – RIC should be comprised of (1) Engine Company, (1) Truck Company, and (1) B/C
 - c. **Level 3** – RIC should be comprised of (1) Engine Company, (1) Truck Company, (1) B/C, and (1) Rescue Company

Command Responsibilities

The RIC should be assigned to Command or Operations Section Chief and deployed at the discretion of the Incident Commander. The decision to assign the RIC to "other" responsibilities and/or tasks shall be at the sole discretion of the IC.



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Command is responsible for the implementation, utilization, and frequency of the department's Personnel Accountability Report (PAR). Regular and effective PAR's will provide the RIC a better idea of where personnel are operating at an incident, and identify more quickly when a firefighter is unaccounted for.

The Battalion Chief assigned to the RIC will establish the RIC Group Supervisor position and request a separate tactical channel to manage the RIC.

The decision to demobilize the RIC shall be at the discretion of Command. Maintaining an appropriate RIC throughout the incident should be considered based on the inherent risk specific to the incident.

Command should consider maintaining a full additional alarm within staging until the completion of RIC operations due to the anticipated stress and work load affiliated with an operating "MAYDAY."

Strategic Considerations

The determination to establish a **Level II** RIC should be driven by the potential need for a "large area" search operation and/or commercial size buildings.

The determination to establish **Level III** RIC should be driven by the potential need for the "specialized" tools and techniques provided by a Rescue Company.

For large buildings, or buildings/occupancies of a geographic nature that make the deployment of a single RIC component to all access points of a structure problematic, serious consideration should be made for multiple RICs. If the determination is made to establish multiple RICs, from different scene locations, the Chief Officer assigned to the RIC Group Supervisor position will be identified to coordinate all RIC operations.

Tactical Considerations

Once RIC has been established, the unit(s) shall deploy in a proactive approach. The following items are considerations for a proactive approach:

1. Check in with Command to confirm which crews are on scene and their respective working locations.
2. Confirm radio channels in use and ensure RIC members are on the correct channels.
3. Determine location of RIC Equipment Staging and inform command
 - a. Preferably on a corner of the involved building.
 - b. Utilize RIC Tarp and RIC Tactical Worksheet
4. Conduct a size-up with crew of the structure involved to include:



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- a. Use of a Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) both for the exterior as well as the interior
 - b. Structural Triage of the building
 - c. Identification of building type and construction
 - d. Access to all portions of the building
5. Assign Roles/Responsibilities
- a. Last person in brings the RIC pack
 - b. If using the Large Area Search Bag, establish the Anchor (carrying LAS bag), Officer (TIC), Searcher 1 (S1, forcible entry tool), and Searcher 2 (S2, RIC pack).
6. "Soften the Structure" – Ensuring multiple access points and exits are established/created to facilitate a quicker response and increased chance of survival. This list is not an absolute as additional items and/or circumstances may be present.
- a. Place additional ladders to the roof if ventilation tactics are in process.
 - b. Place additional ladders to multiple floors if crews are, or will be, working on those floors.
 - c. Remove security bars on doors and windows.
 - d. Ensure windows and doors can open
 - (1) Use of forcible entry
 - (2) Keep them open if not a negative impact to interior operations
 - e. Place illumination devices inside doors and windows to indicate an exit point to interior crews (i.e. – Power Flares, box lights, etc).
 - f. If a "Softening" plan requires extensive effort and time, an additional company should be considered.

Deployment

The RIC is in place to assist with, and/or affect the rescue of fire personnel who may be endangered. Entry into the involved structure is permissible under the following general conditions (not all-inclusive):

1. A rescue situation develops involving fire personnel.
2. Personnel are unaccounted for following a personnel accountability report (PAR).
3. A "Mayday" radio call is received.

Upon receiving a "MAYDAY" from fire personnel on scene, the IC should establish "Emergency Traffic" on the fire ground and gather the following information:

NUCAN

Name
Unit ID, Location
Condition
Action
Needs



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Once pertinent information has been obtained and given to the RIC and/or RIC Group Supervisor, the IC should request an additional alarm(s) and tactical channel(s) through fire dispatch.

Command should also establish additional RIC teams. RIC operations are very labor intensive and will possibly require on-going replacement throughout the duration of the RIC deployment. The RIC should make a determination on the best entrance location and appropriate equipment needed. Crews should be aggressive in their actions and maintain constant accountability and clear communication with Command or RIC Group Supervisor.

The RIC Group Supervisor will hold teams to a **10 minute** turn around policy while operating in the IDLH. The RIC Group Supervisor should position themselves in visual proximity to the team's entry point.

Once a RIC has made contact with a down firefighter, they should complete a PAC assessment and communicate a CAN report to Command or RIC Group Supervisor.

PAC Assessment:

- P- Person – Is this the person you're looking for?
PASS Device – Silence it
Portable Radio – Turn the downed firefighter's portable radio off to reduce radio interference.
- A - Air – Check the downed firefighter's air supply
Assessment – Checking for entrapment or entanglement
Actions – What you are doing with the down firefighter
 - (1) Air options
 - (2) Packaging type
 - (3) Location of exit points
- C- Communicate a CAN report based on the information gathered from the PAC assessment

CAN Report:

- C- Conditions – What you've got
- A- Actions – What you're doing
- N- Needs – What resources you need (crews, equipment, etc.)

Once the down firefighter(s) have been removed from the IDLH atmosphere, and a PAR has been completed, Command shall transmit an **“ALL CLEAR ON THE RIC, RESUME RADIO TRAFFIC”** on all assigned radio channels.

Nothing in this standard prevents the immediate deployment of personnel to affect a rescue during any stage of an incident.



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Tools identified on the RIC Tactical Worksheet and on the RIC Tarp are minimum tools to assemble. The Company Officer and/or RIC Group Supervisor has the ability to augment the tool cache as they see fit.

Minimum Tool Complement

Blue RIC Tarp
*RIC PACK
TIC
Flathead Axe
Halgan
Bolt Cutters
200' Large Area Search Bag
Circular Saw with various blades

*RIC Pack consists of the following pieces of equipment

1. One (1) Hour rated "Scott" SCBA Cylinder with appropriate hoses
2. Mask and regulator
3. Wire Cutters
4. RIC Sled with one non-locking carabineer
5. Four (4) Phoenix Loops
6. Velcro Strap

Additional Tool Compliment

Ground Ladders
Box Lights / Strobes
Sledge Hammer
Lifeline
Chainsaw with extra chains
Rubbish Hook
Pike Pole
Cribbing (assorted)
Rabbit Tool



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APPENDIX A

Communications Plan For *Rapid Intervention Company (RIC)* Operations

Once RIC has been established, the Company Officer assigned to RIC or RIC Group Supervisor should request a Tactical Channel (TAC) through Incident Command for RIC Operations. Prior to a RIC deployment, RIC communications will be made primarily through this channel. In an effort to get a better idea of where companies and units are operating at an incident, it is recommended that RIC personnel monitor *all* TAC Channels being utilized by personnel operating on scene.

(The RIC Group Supervisor should track the number of TAC channels being utilized relative to the number of personnel assigned to RIC).

When RIC is deployed for a missing or distressed Firefighter, it is essential that the radio channel the Firefighter(s) in question was using is identified. The RIC group will then attempt to contact the missing/distressed Firefighter(s) on the aforementioned TAC while RIC operations are in progress. Once the RIC team is deployed, **and it is to be determined through the decision points that it will be a prolonged event**, fire operations companies can be change over to another identified TAC for continued operations. This change in fire ground communications will be announced on the original TAC channel and a PAR will be conducted on the new TAC channel.

This process needs to be done in a realistic time frame. If done too quickly, companies can become lost in the transition. This RIC will maintain their original TAC for other essential RIC operational communications.

Once the Firefighter is located (optimally prior to extraction), the identity of the Firefighter will be passed to Command to ensure that it is in fact the missing Firefighter. Once all personnel are accounted for, the RIC operations channel will be relinquished back to Command. The original RIC TAC will be maintained throughout the incident, or until RIC is demobilized.