


SHELBYVILLE FIRE & RESCUE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

	SECTION: Safety	S.O.P: 104.04
	SUBJECT: Rapid Intervention Team	PAGE: 1 of 3
	Approved By:	Effective Date: December 1, 2012
		Revision Date:

Purpose:

To outline procedures used for the rescue of personnel working in IDLH atmospheres, unstable environments, or any applicable incident pursuant to OSHA 2 in 2 out rule, OSHA standard 1910.134, and applicable sections of NFPA 1500.

Scope:

This policy applies to all members, Career or Volunteer, providing fire, rescue, emergency or non-emergency care to the City of Shelbyville. This policy also applies to any personnel providing mutual aid to Shelbyville Fire & Rescue.

Definitions:

IDLH:

- Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health.
- Oxygen level below 19.5%.
- Lower explosive limits in excess of 10%.
- Toxins in excess of the permissible exposure limits.
- Confined space, collapse or any other situation recognized to be unstable and could cause injury or death.
- An atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, could cause irreversible, adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere. The interior of a structure involved in fire, beyond the incipient stage, is considered an IDLH atmosphere.

Rapid Intervention Team: A team consisting of a minimum of two trained members whose duties is to track and rescue if needed, firefighters inside a structure fire.

Level 1 RIT: A team consisting of no less than two trained members.


Level 2 RIT: A team consisting of no less than 4 trained members.

Personal Accountability Report (PAR): When the order is given for a PAR, all Company Officers will account for the members of his/her division, group or company. The report will be given to Command or Operations that all members of the crew are accounted for when asked for PAR.

Mayday: A notification to the IC that immediate action is required to rescue or assist emergency personnel operating at an emergency incident.

Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC): A device that sense heat, so that you can locate victims or firefighters when visibility is low.

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RIT Kit: A kit that RIT teams need to have with them that will help in the rescue of emergency personnel. Consists of: Secured hand line, radio, spare SCBA, Room Ladder, Fire axe, Kelly tool, Rescue rope, hand light, EMT jump kit, if available, a TIC, sked stretcher, Many other tools can be used depending of the incident.


I. Emergency Procedures (MAYDAY):

1. Anytime emergency personnel operating on an incident feel they are trapped, injured or lost, they shall signal a MAYDAY alert. Immediately following the MAYDAY alert, those personnel shall activate their PASS device.
2. They shall transmit the word MAYDAY via radio by announcing in increments of three, followed by radio message to Command identifying themselves along with their location. Information pertaining to the location should be as specific as possible utilizing LUNAR (Location, Unit, Name, Air, Reason) or who where and why method. (**MADAY, MADAY, MAYDAY, THIS IS FIREFIGHTER SMITH. I AM LOCATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR B-C CORNER. I'M ENTANGLED IN SOME WIRE AND LOW ON AIR.**) This shall be repeated until acknowledged by either the IC or Dispatch.
3. Rapid Intervention Teams are to be deployed only upon orders of the IC.
4. A PAR may be initiated depending upon the complexity of the incident. Incidents on-going for a considerable length of time may require periodic Par's.
5. Command shall deploy the necessary resources needed to assist with the rescue.
6. Other members on the scene should be aware of the MAYDAY situation, but must continue with their assigned tasks.
7. A Personnel Accountability Report shall be initiated for all other crews.
8. The RIT team shall notify the RIT group leader or Incident Commander when the person(s) are located and the actions being taken to remove them or if additional assistance is needed.

II. Rapid Intervention

1. RIT will only be deployed upon orders from the IC.
2. A backup RIT shall be established whenever the initial RIT is deployed.
3. Upon the report of a lost or trapped firefighter, the RIT team leader will immediately see that all members of his team abandon any support activities that may be involved in and concentrate their efforts on rescue.
4. RIT members shall compare information with the Accountability Officer in determining the last known location of the missing personnel.
5. RIT members shall utilize the information from their on-going scene size-up to help determine the type of rescue that they may encounter.
6. If a self-rescue or a quick grab and go rescue is not possible, RIT members shall use the "AWARE" principle while determining the method of rescue as well as the estimated time it will take to complete the rescue.
7. RIT can only be terminated when the incident does not meet any of the definitions of an IDLH.

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8. If a self-rescue or a quick grab and go rescue is not possible, RIT shall use the “AWARE” principle while determining the method of rescue as well as the estimated time it will take to complete the rescue.

“AWARE” Principle

- a. **Air:** Provide victim with primary and secondary supply of air
- b. **Water:** If the rescue involves fire, use hose line to provide a defensible space for the victim.
- c. **A Radio:** Make sure victim has a reliable radio to communicate his condition.
- d. **Extrication:** Removal of the victim

III. Termination of RIT

RIT can only be terminated when the incident does not meet any of the definitions of an IDLH atmosphere and ordered by the Incident Commander.

IV. Training

1. Training Officers shall schedule annual training sessions to better prepare the department for the use of Rapid Intervention Teams. Subject matter such as techniques, tool use, wall breaching, and building construction to name a few are areas of expertise a member should have.
2. Training should involve various types of simulated rescues utilizing the AWARE principle to help develop the necessary skills to become a highly skilled RIT. Teamwork and coordination is vital to being an effective RIT team.
3. RIT shall be used during all other training events as possible to continue the member’s education of RIT.