

☞ FIRE GROUND SAFETY INITIATIVE ☞	
-Standard Operating Guideline-	-Number-
Rapid Intervention Crew at Structure Fires	SOG # 011
 St. Louis County FGSi Fire Ground Safety Initiative	Date Approved by the Fire Chiefs Association: <i>DRAFT</i>
	Date Last Revised: <i>4-16-18</i>
	Next Revision Date:
	Review Date: <i>SOG Shall be reviewed annually by the AHJ</i>

Purpose

This SOG outlines a guideline that ensures the risks faced by our personnel are minimized through sound risk management practices and safety procedures. The objective is to have a fully equipped Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) on scene at structure fires and in a ready state to deploy for rescuing injured and trapped firefighters.

Scope

This guideline should be implemented at structure fires where Fire Department Personnel are subject to hazards that would be immediately dangerous to life and/or health (IDLH).

Procedures

Key Elements-

The primary objective of the sixth arriving fire apparatus is Rapid Intervention Crew. The officer establishing command from a strategic location (outside the structure) shall ensure that RIC has been established and ready to perform assigned tasks.

Additional RICs should be assigned as needed.

The Incident Commander should communicate the establishment and location of the RIC to the Incident Safety Officer (ISO).

The Incident Commander will normally determine the standby location near the command post, at an entry point, or other selected location.

All RIC firefighters will assume a ready state, with portable radios, full protective clothing, SCBA, and appropriate tools for the incident.

A RIC will consist of a minimum of three (3) firefighters.

Accountability must be maintained during any reconnaissance activity. Any unsafe acts or conditions observed by the RIC shall be reported to the ISO or the IC.

1. Preparation/Size-up

- a. When arriving on the scene, the RIC Officer (unit company officer assigned to RIC) will obtain a briefing from the IC or the ISO and conduct a specific size up that focuses on:
 - A 360-degree size up
 - Fire location
 - Interior team(s) entry point and location
 - Critical fire ground factors (scene conditions, fire flow path & hazards)
 - Type of construction and condition
 - Environmental conditions
 - Firefighter fatigue
 - Radio communications
 - Potential firefighter rescue operations

- b. Assure that the RIC equipment is assembled on the fire ground. The basic RIC equipment includes:
 - A RIC bag with a universal connection or complete SCBA with face piece
 - Search rope
 - Thermal imaging camera
 - Appropriate hand and power tools based upon the building's construction.

- c. One RIC member must be appointed to closely monitor the tactical radio channel at all times to maintain awareness of the activities and status of working companies.

- d. The RIC shall remain immediately ready for deployment wearing full protective clothing and SCBA in standby mode with a minimum of one portable radio for each team member.

2. Hazard Reduction

- a. In coordination with the IC and ISO, the RIC should perform the following duties in making the fire ground safer:
 - Secure utilities
 - Remove any bars from windows/doors, or obstacles that may hinder an evacuation, and "soften" the structure. **THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE VENTILATING WINDOWS/DOORS, WHICH WOULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE FLOW PATH.**
 - Strategically place ladders on all four (4) sides of the building when possible, to establish evacuation points for the interior crews. This should be communicated through the IC and ISO.

3. Deployment

- a. When a Mayday is declared, the RIC shall not self-assign. All RIC assignments/activations are made by the IC or RIC Group Supervisor.
- b. Once deployed the RIC will report to the assigning officer.
- c. The RIC will be assigned the radio designation "RIC". When multiple RIC's are assigned, designators will be RIC 1, RIC 2, and a RIC Group Supervisor will be established to oversee them.
- d. The IC may request all firefighting operations switch to the designated alternative channel and continue firefighting operations.
- e. When RIC is deployed, the IC must assign an additional RIC.
- f. *Refer to the Mayday Lost/Trapped Firefighter Command Actions SOG.*

4. Demobilizing the RIC

- a. The IC should keep the RIC available after active firefighting and suppression operations have ceased while operations such as salvage and overhaul are ongoing. Conditions such as openings in floors, weakened structural members or other potentially hazardous circumstances may warrant the use of a RIC.
- b. After the IC and the ISO have thoroughly evaluated the situation and have determined that the operation no longer presents hazardous risks to personnel necessitating the need for a RIC, the ISO may suspend the operations of the RIC.

Considerations-

- **Receiving the Initial "Mayday":** Traditionally firefighters wait too long to call for help.
- **Deployment of Team:** Five to ten minutes may elapse while the RIC consults with the IC, devises a plan, gathers the necessary equipment, and makes entry to the structure.
- **Travel Time:** You will face the same conditions as the MAYDAY member, uncontrolled fire, low visibility, structural collapse, etc.
- **Radio Traffic:** Communication with the IC or the RIC group leader can be limited. Anticipate a crowded radio channel from ongoing fire ground operations.
- **Extrication:** You may need more tools, equipment or personnel for extrication and packaging prior to removal to a safe area.
- **Emotion:** A RIC deployment will challenge rational thinking and crew discipline.
- **Air Supply:** This may be the most critical factor- The MAYDAY member or crew AND the RIC will need extra breathing air.

References

NFPA 1407, Standard for Training Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews, 2015 Edition.

NFPA 1710, Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations.

Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments, 2016 Edition.

NFPA 1500, Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program, 2018 Edition.