



#236

CITY OF CHARLOTTETOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE: **RAPID INTERVENTION CREW**

ORIGINATING DATE: JANUARY 31, 2019

EFFECTIVE DATE: **FEBRUARY 4, 2019**

REVISION DATE:

APPROVED BY: **FIRE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT TEAM**

PAGE: **1 THROUGH 4**

1 **General**

This SOG establishes procedures for the implementation and operation of a Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC), as adopted by the City of Charlottetown Fire Department. The RIC provides guidance for personnel assigned for the rescue of firefighters at emergency incidents.

2. **Number and Assignment of Personnel**

2.1 – Initial Operations

The fire department shall provide personnel for the rescue of members operating at emergency incidents.

In the initial stages of an incident where only one crew is operating in a hazardous area or working structural fire, a minimum of four individuals shall be required, consisting of two members working as a crew in the hazardous area and two standby members present outside this hazardous area available for assistance or rescue at emergency operations where entry into the danger area is required.

The standby members shall be responsible for maintaining a constant awareness of the identity of members operating in the hazardous area, their location, function and time of entry.

The standby members shall remain in radio, visual, voice, or signal line communication with the interior crew.

One standby member shall be permitted to perform other duties outside of the hazardous area, such as apparatus operator, incident commander, performing softening of building tasks or technician or aide, provided constant communication is maintained between the standby member and the members of the crew.

The assignment of any personnel, including the incident commander, the safety officer, or operators of fire apparatus, shall not be permitted as standby personnel if by abandoning their critical task(s) to assist or, if necessary, perform rescue, they clearly jeopardize the safety and health of any fire fighter working at the incident.

No one shall be permitted to serve as a standby member of the fire-fighting crew when the other activities in which the fire fighter is engaged inhibit the fire fighter's ability to assist in or perform rescue, if necessary, or are of such importance that they cannot be abandoned without placing other fire fighters in danger

The standby member shall be provided with full protective clothing, protective equipment and SCBA and shall be immediately accessible as deemed appropriate for the risk that might be encountered.

The standby members shall don full protective clothing, protective equipment, and SCBA prior to entering the hazardous area.

Initial attack operations shall be organized to ensure that if, on arrival at the emergency scene, initial attack personnel find an imminent life-threatening situation where immediate action could prevent the loss of life or serious injury, such action shall be permitted with less than four personnel.

No exception as noted above shall be allowed when there is no possibility to save lives.

As the incident expands in size or complexity, which includes an incident commander's requests for additional resources beyond a fire department's initial attack assignment, the dedicated rapid intervention crew (RIC) shall on arrival of these additional resources be either one of the following:

- (1)

On-scene members designated and dedicated as a RIC

- (2)

On-scene crew/company or crews/companies located for rapid deployment and dedicated as RICs

- *As additional members arrive on scene the IC may augment the RIC with additional personnel as deemed necessary.*

Once a second crew is assigned or operating in the hazardous area, the incident shall no longer be considered in the “initial stage,” and at least one rapid intervention crew shall be deployed that complies with the requirements of 2.2

2.2 – Sustained Operations

During fire fighter rescue operations each crew/company shall remain intact.

An RIC shall consist of at least two members and shall be available for immediate rescue of a member or a crew.

Each RIC shall be fully equipped with protective clothing, protective equipment, SCBA, and any specialized rescue equipment that could be needed given the specifics of the operation under way.

At incidents where any SCBA being used is equipped with an RIC universal air connection (UAC), the RIC shall have the specialized rescue equipment necessary to complete the RIC UAC connection to a supplied air source.

The breathing air source shall have no less than 1200 L of breathing air before entering the hazard area.

The composition and structure of a RIC shall be permitted to be flexible based on the type of incident and the size and complexity of operations.

The incident commander shall evaluate the situation and the risks to operating crews and shall provide one or more RICs commensurate with the needs of the situation.

In the early stages of an incident, which includes the deployment of a fire department's initial attack assignment, the RIC shall be in compliance with Initial Operations and be either one of the following:

- (1)

On-scene members designated and dedicated as an RIC

- (2)

On-scene members performing other functions but ready to redeploy to perform RIC functions

The assignment of any personnel shall not be permitted as members of the RIC if abandoning their critical task(s) to perform rescue clearly jeopardizes the safety and health of any member operating at the incident.

During fire fighter rescue operations each crew/company shall remain intact. At least one dedicated RIC shall be standing by with equipment to provide for the rescue of members that are performing special operations or for members that are in positions that present an immediate danger of injury in the event of equipment failure or collapse

3. RIC Equipment

In addition to RIC members being dressed in full PPE including SCBA and having a charged hose line available the following minimum equipment will be made available prior to entry.

- MSA G1 RIT System complete with full cylinder, air lines and mask
- Thermal Imaging Camera
- A minimum of one (1) radio for each two member RIC
- Portable lights
- Hand and/or power tools as deemed necessary for the type of construction and estimated rescue operations likely to be encountered
- Appropriate lengths of rescue and search rope as deemed necessary for the structure involved and estimated rescue operations likely to be encountered
- Medical equipment available as required
- Ladders as deemed necessary
- Other specialized equipment as deemed necessary for the type of construction and estimated rescue operations likely to be encountered