

# SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

<b>SOG #:</b>	6.309	<b>Effective Date:</b>	7/18/2018
<b>Title:</b>	Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)	<b># of pages:</b>	3
<b>Category:</b>	Safety	<b>Classification:</b>	Red

1. **PURPOSE:** To establish a guideline for forming, equipping and deploying a rapid intervention team at an incident in the City of South Portland, Maine.
2. **PROCEDURES:**
  - A. The incident commander, whenever one of the following conditions exists, shall assign a minimum of 2 personnel to act as a Rapid Intervention Team (R.I.T.) consistent with SOG 6.307 (two in two out). This team may be expanded to three whenever the incident commander deems it necessary.
    - Structure Fire (SCBA and 1 ¾" hose or larger will be used)
    - Personnel are operating inside of an IDLH or potential IDLH atmosphere.
    - Incidents with the possibility of collapse or entrapment.
    - Incidents where personnel might become disoriented or lost.
    - Special Incidents such as water rescue or high angle rescue.
    - When deemed necessary by the Incident Commander.
  - B. The R.I.T. team shall consist, at a minimum, of one career firefighter and one interior qualified firefighter (SCBA certified). It is preferred that all are career fighters who have had RIT training, but the IC is allowed flexibility as available manpower dictates. The senior team member will be designated the R.I.T. Officer.
  - C. The first R.I.T., if activated for a rescue, shall be referred to as R.I.T. #1. Should more than one R.I.T. be formed, they will be referred to as; R.I.T. #2, R.I.T. #3 and so on.
  - D. When the R.I.T is deployed for a rescue another team will be assign to RIT functions for the fire ground.
  - E. At a large scale (geographically) incident, the Incident Commander should consider placing additional R.I.T. (s) at the rear or remote areas of the incident.
  - F. A communication plan shall be developed to identify all crews working at the scene.
  - G. The R.I.T. may be assigned an OPS channel. The R.I.T. Officer must also ensure that the fire ground channel is monitored to track incident progress and unit locations.

**Duties:**

- A. Upon organizing and gathering the necessary equipment, the R.I.T. Officer shall report to the Incident Commander and await orders. The IC or Operations Officer should quickly brief the R.I.T. Officer on:
- Current operations.
  - Locations of firefighters and current Division Officers operating within the structure.
  - Location of the fire and possible areas of extension.
- B. The R.I.T. may do a walk around of the building for size-up purposes and pre-planning, such as throwing ladders for egress. They will not perform activities that will fatigue them, use SCBA air, or commit to any activity that cannot be stopped in an emergency rescue. They are to maintain a ready status. The R.I.T. shall only carry out assignments given by the R.I.T. Officer at the direction of the Incident Commander
- C. The R.I.T. team shall equip themselves with tools appropriate for the incident. Some suggested tools are:
- Saws
  - Rope
  - Spare SCBA bottles
  - Flashlight(s)
  - Radio(s)
  - RIT Pack
  - Hose lines
  - Thermal Imaging Camera
  - Four Gas Meter

The team shall place all their tools in a staging area, on a designated tarp, that is not blocking normal operations but is close enough to deploy rapidly for use. There shall be a laminated card on all department RIT Packs that will help with tool selection and team assignments.

**Deployment:**

- A. When a firefighter is down the Incident Commander will call for a Personal Accountability Report "PAR" for the fire ground as per SPFD Mayday SOG. All non-mitigating assignments will be stopped and crews pulled back to staging to be reassigned. Fire Alarm will make an announcement that a Mayday has been received.
- B. The Incident Commander **must** ensure that other fire ground operations continue towards mitigation of the incident.
- C. Should the need arise; the Incident Commander will deploy the R.I.T., giving them as much information about the situation as possible. To assist this, the acronym "LUNAR" should be used.
- L      Location (last known location)
  - U      Unit (crew, unit or sector and job assignment)
  - N      Name (name of the firefighter(s) needed assistance)

- A Air supply (available air left)
  - R Resources needed (what equipment is needed to solve problem)
- D. The Incident Commander will notify Fire Alarm that a R.I.T. has been deployed and have the time logged.
- E. The Incident Commander shall assign a RIT or Rescue Branch Officer who shall oversee the RIT operation.
- F. The R.I.T.'s main objective is to achieve "LAW"
- L Locate (Firefighters needing assistance)
  - A Air (Provide them air via RIT Pack or other means)
  - W Water (Make sure that they protected until they can be removed to safety)
- G. If it appears that the rescue operation will be an extended event with multiple R.I.T.s used, the RIT Sector Officer should consider placing a RIT Division at the rescue location with a 1 hour bottle. His job would be to coordinate operations between incoming/exiting teams and to provide a constant stream of information to the RIT Division and the Incident Commander.
- H. The Incident Commander shall be the only one with authority to cancel a RIT operation. The IC will contact Fire Alarm and have an announcement made that the RIT operation has been canceled and normal operations are continuing.

3. REFERENCES:

- None

By Order Of:



James P. Wilson  
Fire Chief