

# **Rapid Intervention (RIC) & Accountability**

# 29

Section IV - Technical Operations



**Two-In Two-Out**

**I-RIC**

**Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC)**

**Accountability**



*Intentionally Left Blank*



# Chapter 29 Table of Contents

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Two In – Two Out .....                                | 29-1  |
| Two-In, Two-Out Exception .....                       | 29-1  |
| Definitions.....                                      | 29-2  |
| I-RIC (Initial RIC) .....                             | 29-3  |
| SDFD Initial Response and Operation Policy .....      | 29-3  |
| Emergency Rescue Exception .....                      | 29-3  |
| Rapid Intervention Crew.....                          | 29-5  |
| RIC Group .....                                       | 29-5  |
| RIC Communications .....                              | 29-6  |
| RIC Group Pre-Deployment Mode.....                    | 29-7  |
| Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) Bag.....                | 29-8  |
| RIC Group Deployment Mode .....                       | 29-11 |
| RIC Group Supervisor Functions .....                  | 29-17 |
| Fire Ground Accountability .....                      | 29-18 |
| Accountability Tags .....                             | 29-18 |
| Accountability Box.....                               | 29-20 |
| Accountability Officer – A/O.....                     | 29-20 |
| Personal Accountability Report - PAR .....            | 29-21 |
| Individual Responsibility To Accountability .....     | 29-21 |
| Company Officer Responsibility to Accountability..... | 29-22 |
| Mutual Aid Incidents.....                             | 29-23 |
| Media & Link Index.....                               | 29-24 |
| References.....                                       | 29-25 |
| Credits.....  | 29-25 |
| Revisions/Updates.....                                | 29-26 |





## Two In – Two Out

Cal OSHA Title 8, sec. 5144 and NFPA 1500 mandate the adherence to the “Two-in, Two-out” policy when working within an IDLH atmosphere, also known as the “buddy system.” The first part of this policy states that a firefighter shall never enter into an IDLH atmosphere alone. There should always be (at least) two firefighters together when they enter a location with IDLH conditions. In the event one firefighter needs to exit, both or all shall exit together so that no one firefighter is left alone. If three members enter and a need arises to exit, all three must exit. If four enter and one member needs to leave, only one other person must exit with that individual. The purpose of this policy is to ensure no one leaves, or remains in the building, alone.

The second part of this policy, the “Two-out,” refers to a safety system to protect firefighters. Where two or more firefighters enter a structure with an IDLH environment, at least two more firefighters must remain outside, ready to help in case of an emergency. When a team enters an IDLH atmosphere (the “two in”), two more firefighters (the “two out”) will be standing by at the entrance in full personal protective equipment and SCBA, ready with rescue tools, in order to rapidly enter the building if the team inside becomes endangered, lost, or trapped.

Each team must be in voice, visual, or electronic contact with one another. Team members shall be in close proximity to one another to provide assistance in case of an emergency. The “Two-in, Two-out” policy also applies to any Staff Officer or support personnel entering the IDLH atmosphere as well.

In addition to structure fires, this policy shall also apply to incidents in which the incident commander anticipates personnel may be exposed to other hazardous conditions, including trench rescue, swift water rescue, confined space or other incidents where conditions may deteriorate.

### Two-In, Two-Out Exception

The only exceptions to the “Two-in, Two-out” rule are if the first arriving crew receives a report of a known rescue or when the fire is still in the incipient phase and can be extinguished with an extinguisher.



# Definitions

## *A/O – Accountability Officer*

The accountability officer is tasked with collecting the tags of the firefighters upon their entrance and exit from the IDLH atmosphere as well as recording their time and location of assignment on the orange accountability clipboard.

## *I-RIC – Initial Rapid Intervention Crew*

For initial attack purposes, a minimum of two personnel shall be assigned to a standby position, referred to as the Initial Rapid Intervention Crew or I-RIC. The I-RIC allows an entry team of two firefighters initiate fire attack while satisfying the two-in, two-out requirement.

## *IDLH – Immediately Dangerous to Life & Health*

An IDLH atmosphere, related to structure fires, is defined as any fire which is beyond the incipient stage and which cannot be controlled by Class II Standpipes or small hose systems without the need for protective clothing or SCBA. An example would be any fire that requires the use of a 1 ¾ inches or larger attack line and also requires the use of an SCBA for members entering an IDLH atmosphere.

## *PAR – Personal Accountability Report*

Personnel accountability reports (PAR) are verbal by radio or face-to-face confirmation of interior team(s) status and welfare.

## *POE – Point Of Entry*

Aerial ladders, ground ladders, doors, and windows are examples of POE's.

## *PPN – Position, Progress, Needs*

PPN is an acronym used to quickly communicate a unit's status over the radio. PPN stands for the units current position, the progress they have made on their assignment and any needs they may have, such as additional resources.

## *RIC – Rapid Intervention Crew*

A Rapid Intervention Crew, or RIC, calls for the establishment of a crew of four firefighters to be standing by, fully equipped outside the structure, immediately ready to enter the building to rescue a trapped, lost, or unaccounted for firefighter.



## I-RIC (Initial RIC)

An Initial Rapid Intervention Crew, or I-RIC, is the fire service's answer to comply with OSHA's "two-in, two-out" mandate. In accordance to NFPA 1500, It shall be the policy that no fewer than four fully equipped firefighters are on scene during interior operations that involve an unknown, potential, or an actual IDLH atmosphere. For initial attack purposes, a minimum of two personnel shall be assigned to an entry crew, and a minimum of two personnel to the standby position. This standby position will be recognized as the Initial Rapid Intervention Crew or I-RIC, [Figure 29-1](#).



Figure 29-1 The I-RIC team may consist of an Officer with full PPE and SCBA & and Engineer in full PPE with an SCBA readily available.

I-RIC personnel shall be responsible for maintaining a constant awareness of the number, identity, location and function of those operating in the hazardous area.

## SDFD Initial Response and Operation Policy

Engineers will don their turnout pants and boots before responding to any structure fire. The initial attack team shall not enter until the engineer has charged the attack lines, and set the pump, including throttle, relief valves, and discharge gates. This does not apply to truck company operations or known rescue situations.

Once immediate pumping operations have been established, the engineer shall immediately don full PPE. An engineer serving as a member of a RIC shall have an SCBA readily available.

If a First-In Company Officer elects to assume command and maintain a position outside the structure, entry into the structure shall not be allowed until the drop off person is ready and equipped to assist the line breaker with interior operations.

If a First-In Company Officer elects to operate in the fast attack mode, he or she shall designate the I-RIC member(s) prior to the interior attack on the fire. This could be any combination of the four-person crew. It is imperative that all crew members of the I-RIC understand their roles and responsibilities.

## Emergency Rescue Exception

When a first-in company arrives at scene and an emergency rescue (verbal reports, visual sightings, obvious indicators) exists where immediate action may prevent loss of life or serious injury, the members shall carefully evaluate



the level of risk they will be exposed to upon initiating the rescue. Under these conditions, operations that are necessary to affect an emergency rescue shall be permitted without the establishment of an I-RIC (e.g. short crew, or full crew with commitment of three crew members to interior operations). This is the only exception. It is for an emergency rescue situation only and not for standard search and rescue practices.

If action is taken in accordance with the “exception” provision, a written report shall be submitted to the Operations Deputy Chief via the chain of command within 24 hours. The report shall include details of the attempt or actual rescue, the factors that led to the rescue being initiated, safety procedures used, occurrence of injury to Fire-Rescue employees, and the status of any rescued person. It shall be retained in Department files for OSHA inspection purposes.

Such action is intended to apply to those circumstances, when in the Company Officer’s professional judgment, the specific incident requires immediate action to prevent loss of life or serious injury and an I-RIC is not yet assembled.

One primary I-RIC member must be solely dedicated to tracking interior personnel. Their function is to account for location of interior crews and initiate a fire fighter rescue. This position requires a dedicated hose line, radio, and PPE, SCBA, and accountability board.

The secondary I-RIC member is permitted to take on other roles, such as, safety officer, or equipment operator. This position requires a radio, PPE and an SCBA nearby to be donned as soon as possible.





# Rapid Intervention Crew

A Rapid Intervention Crew, or RIC, calls for the establishment of a crew of four firefighters to be standing by, fully equipped outside the structure, immediately ready to enter the building to rescue a trapped, lost, or unaccounted for firefighter, **Figure 29-2**.

The idea of RIC was born out of the failures of crews to save trapped or downed firefighters inside due to not being prepared, aware, or trained in rapid intervention techniques. Other agencies often use terms such as Rapid Intervention Team (RIT), Rapid Entry Team (RET), or Firefighter Assist and Search Team (FAST) to describe the function of RIC. Regardless of the name, the aforementioned teams perform basically the same tasks.

I-RIC/RIC will be established anytime firefighters enter an IDLH, potential IDLH, unknown atmosphere, or when deemed necessary by the IC.



**Figure 29-2 Rapid Intervention Crew and RIC Equipment Cache.**

## RIC Group

The decision to transition from the I-RIC mode of operation to the establishment of a RIC Group is incident driven and ultimately made by the incident commander as the incident grows. From the additional resources arriving to the incident, the IC must designate a formal RIC Group to replace I-RIC. For this reason all structure fire responses have been formatted to include a minimum of four (4) engine companies, one (1) truck, two (2) Battalion Chiefs and one (1) ALS ambulance.

The IC shall designate a Company Officer as RIC Group. The IC shall also designate an Accountability Officer and assign them to the RIC Group, see Accountability section of this chapter.

The IC or first due Battalion Chief can make this assignment while units are en route to the incident or upon arrival at scene. In most cases the 3rd arriving engine company will be designated as the RIC.

## Multiple RIC Groups

The IC may assign more than one company as RIC if necessary. Operations at a large or more complex nature may call for multiple RIC groups at different



entry points. Upon the arrival of additional companies, the IC has the following options for use:

- Assign company(s) to RIC duties and designated a RIC Group.
- Cancel the companies en route after the declaration of fire under control, and personnel accountability reports (PAR) have been obtained from all crews and the IDLH atmosphere no longer exists.
- Assign the companies to other duties, such as relief for working crews.
- If assigned other duties, the IC may request additional companies for RIC purposes.
- Stage the units for contingency purposes. (If the RIC Group has been assigned).

### *Naming of Multiple RIC Groups*

If more than one RIC is required to safely support operations, they will be named based upon geographical positioning. For example, in a large single-level warehouse incident where multiple RIC's may be required to effectively meet the intent of this policy, RIC's are to be assigned as RIC Alpha, RIC Bravo, RIC Charlie, or RIC Delta.

In a high-rise incident with multiple levels of operations, the naming of the multiple RIC's would be assigned by a numeric identifier to identify the floor they are responsible for. For example, RIC 1, RIC 2, RIC 3 or Division 1 RIC, Division 2 RIC, Division 3 RIC.



Figure 29-3 The RIC officer must coordinate the monitoring of the necessary incident channels.

## RIC Communications

RIC Group and individual RIC crews will be responsible for monitoring the following radio channels:

### Pre-Deployment

- Incident Tac Channel
- Incident Command Channel
- Incident Emergency Channel (typically “P”)
  - Incident RIC Channel
  - 7N, 8N, or 9N (SDFD)
  - Secondary Tac Channel (Non-SDFD incidents)

### Deployment

When the RIC Group is deployed or activated, RIC operations should occur on the Incident RIC channel for SDFD incidents or an assigned secondary tac channel for non-SDFD incidents. Communication with the downed or missing firefighter ideally should take place on the emergency channel “papa.” However, if contact has been made on another channel, do not have the downed



firefighter change channels to “papa,” Keep radio communication lines unbroken at all costs once established in emergency situations.

## RIC Group Pre-Deployment Mode

En route, potential RIC units shall monitor the tactical radio channel and should initiate a tactical worksheet noting location of operating companies. The pre-deployment mode are the actions taken when assigned as a RIC crew in anticipation of a firefighter rescue.

Upon assignment of RIC responsibilities, the RIC Group Supervisor shall obtain a briefing from the IC or the I-RIC they are relieving on the status and location of all assigned companies. The resources assigned as RIC, shall know the strategic mode of the fire (offensive/defensive), tactics being deployed and any other pertinent information.

### Establish RIC Staging Location

RIC shall be located at a safe position, outside the IDLH/hazard area and still be able to monitor conditions by visual observation, communicate with assigned personnel, and monitor radio traffic and assigned personnel. Considerations of a staging location for RIC should include:

- Initial entry point(s) of interior crews
- Secondary egress points
- Hazards
- Building construction
- Size and layout of the building or hazard area
- Number of personnel working in the hazard area

RIC shall be stage at a position at, or as close to the points of entry of the crews entering the IDLH atmosphere as possible to ensure rapid deployment when needed. In high-rise fire incidents, the RIC should typically be located two floors below the fire floor with “Staging.” Once RIC has been established, the IC must be advised of its location.

## Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) Bag



- 200' of 8mm rope & (2) Steel Carabiners
- 60 min. SCBA Bottle & backframe with remote pressure gauge
- EBSS & UAC fill hoses
- Flashlight
- Wire Cutters
- Trauma Shears
- Door Bands
- Door Chocks
- Scott SCBA Mask



### Establish Equipment Cache

RIC is responsible for gathering a cache of emergency rescue equipment and spare air bottles outside the structure in the event of a downed or lost firefighter, [Figure 29-4](#). The following is a non-inclusive list of equipment for RIC.

- RIC Bag
- Full PPE & SCBA
- Portable Radios
- Thermal Imaging Camera - TIC
- Spare Air Bottles



- Consider upgrading RIC personnel to 60 minute SCBA cylinders
- Basic Hand Tools
- Min. 150' of rope for use as a tag line
- Chain Saw/Rescue Saw
- Hand Lights / Portable Lighting
- Debris Carrier
- Ladder

### Size Up the Structure

RIC crews should perform a size-up of the involved structure to assess for building construction, hazards, size and layout, entry and exit points, and fire involvement. Additionally, RIC can interview exiting firefighters to get an idea of conditions, hazards, and layout of the inside of the structure.

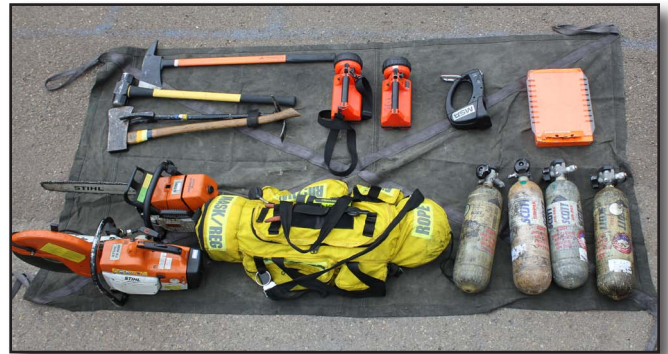


Figure 29-4 A minimum RIC Equipment Cache

### Softening The Structure

RIC is tasked with preparing the building for an emergency escape, which is known as “softening the structure.” This calls for removing bars off windows, unlocking doors, and placing ladders to windows in case the crews inside need to escape in a hurry. Crews shall be cautious of creating openings to the exterior that may cause changes in interior fire behavior. Crews shall soften the structure in order to enhance their ability to successfully accomplish the rescue of a down firefighter without causing unwarranted damage to the structure.

### Develop and Communicate a RIC Action Plan

The RIC Group must put together an action plan that is to include search and rescue scenarios and actions.

- Consider critical fire ground factors
- Consider air management (elapsed time)
- Consider firefighter fatigue
- Continuous monitoring of assigned radio channels is vital for update information on fire ground activities.
- Have communication between RIC Group and IC or Operations Section Chief



*Develop and Communicate a Search Plan*

- Consider point of entry for crew/member in trouble
- Consider last known location
- Consider your water supply/hose line selection
  - Speed
  - Mobility
  - Length
- Assign tasks to entry crew
  - Thermal imager
  - Air supply
  - Tools
  - Tag lines
- Monitor air supply
- Provide timely PPN reports to IC and RIC Group Supervisor.

*Develop and Communicate a Rescue Plan*

- Consider relay rescue (Call additional resources early)
- Consider alternative exit points
- Consider carry vs. drag techniques
- Monitor your air supply
- Provide timely reports PPN to IC and RIC Group Supervisor



## RIC Group Deployment Mode

Upon receipt of firefighter distress or confirmed lack of accountability of personnel, and once the RIC is deployed, the IC will make a general announcement to incident personnel of a RIC deployment. IC must communicate the following:

- “Emergency Traffic” and clear all other radio traffic
- Deploy the RIC
- Assign a RIC Group Supervisor
- Order additional resources
- Notify FCC

Firefighters working in the immediate area shall be notified by the IC to assist in the rescue effort if at all possible without jeopardizing incident stabilization efforts. Sufficient forces must remain focused on stabilization efforts and engage in controlling or keeping at bay the spread of the fire.

### RIC Deployment Tactics

As mentioned before, there are some very important pieces of equipment to bring along on a Firefighter rescue. If the P.A.R. was initiated because of a major structural event, and a Firefighter has turned up missing, bring more forcible entry and power rescue equipment than normal. If the lost Firefighter has turned up during a normal P.A.R., a standard load-out of forcible entry and rescue equipment will probably be adequate. Two of the most critical pieces of equipment are the thermal imager and a spare air bottles. The thermal imager will make gaining access to the down Firefighter, or locating the lost Firefighter much easier. If the lost or down Firefighter needs anything, it’s more air. “Bring a bottle - Save a buddy.”

Time is critical; the R.I.C. is looking for a lost or injured Firefighter, so listen for the personal alarm device. Use hose lines associated with the lost Firefighter as a guide. Conduct rapid searches of areas around the hose line. If the R.I.C. must leave contact with the entry landmark such as a wall or hose line, do so with a tag line. Using a tag line prevents the R.I.C. from getting lost, and it aids others who might be called in to help with the rescue. Tag lines also make rapid egress possible after locating the lost or down Firefighter. In place of a tag line, small diameter hose lines can be brought in as a replacement for, or an addition to rope.

The number one priority is to quickly locate the trapped, injured or lost Firefighter and provide them with an adequate air supply. The R.I.C. will determine the down Firefighter’s last known location and assignment, and move quickly to locate them. After locating the Firefighter, they will provide an air supply, and then ascertain whether additional resources are needed to extricate the Firefighter. The first R.I.C. through the door will be lightly equipped for



rapid ingress and should bring with them at minimum the following equipment:

1. RIC bag for the down Firefighter with face piece and regulator whip assembly, buddy breathing or UAC quick fill system,
2. Thermal imager (preferably two if available)
3. Forcible entry hand tools
4. Tag line (secured/anchored on the outside)

The tag line or 1 3/4" attack line depending on current fire conditions provides a valuable link to the outside among other things. The tag line will ensure a means of rapid ingress of additional resources. It will also provide a secure guide to the outside. The first R.I.C. can establish a resource chain along the line using the indicator knots. They can preposition equipment, supplies and personnel at the directed knots. The 1 3/4" hose line provides the same benefits of a tag line using the 50' couplings, plus the additional benefit of being able to control a small fire if one is encountered.

### RIC Deployment Positions

The following four positions have been pre-designated to streamline RIC deployment operations. These positions are listed in the order of entry for the four-person crew.

*It should be noted that although the following order is the recommended method by the SDFD, the training division recognizes that a RIC deployment is a highly dynamic event and must be allowed some degree of flexibility. Factors that may influence the order/positions of the RIC deployment can be the experience of the crew members, type of rescue and equipment required, company officer preference, and level of training. The most important factor in a successful RIC deployment is pre-planning and training as a crew.*

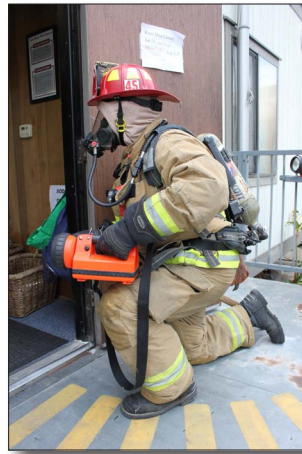
#### *Lead Position – Line Breaker Firefighter*

1. First In-Line For Entry.
2. Don full P.P.E. and S.C.B.A. in "Standby."
3. Conduct a building recon with Drop Off maintaining radio contact with R.I.C.
4. Report to R.I.C. and turn over your accountability tag.
5. Secure the tag line and give the end of the line to the Engineer (Support #2) bring forcible entry tool.
6. Take up the "Lead" position on the tag line with TIC and enter the building safely, calls out any hazards and looks for additional escape routes.
7. Lead the search for the down firefighter, silence the alarm when found.
8. Remove the rope bag from your S.C.B.A. and give it to the Engineer (Support #2).





Lead Position - FF



RIC Officer - Capt.



Support 1 - FF



Support 2 - Eng.

9. Lead the team out along the tag line once the down firefighter is located and ready.

#### *RIC Officer – Fire Captain*

1. Second In-Line For Entry.
2. Don full P.P.E. and S.C.B.A. in “Standby.”
3. Assign radio channels to monitor.
  - Command
  - Tac
  - RIC
  - “Emer” within the zone
  - “FireMarsd”
4. Collect all the accountability tags and turn them over to the A.O., [Figure 29-5](#). Secure Captains Crew Accountability Tag to tag line for identification, [Figure 29-6](#).
5. Take up the Officer’s(R.I.C. #) position behind the lead on the tag line.
6. Work with your crew to search for and rescue the down firefighter.



Figure 29-5 The RIC Officer must turn over the all of the RIC’s accountability tags to the A.O.

#### *Support #1 – Drop-Off Firefighter*

1. Third In-Line For Entry.
2. Don full P.P.E. and S.C.B.A. in “Standby.”
3. Conduct a building recon with Line Breaker maintaining radio contact with R.I.C.
4. Report to the Officer (R.I.C.) and turn over your accountability tag.
5. Helps secure R.I.C. cache.

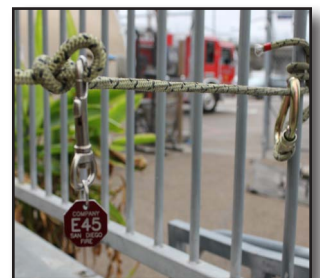


Figure 29-6 The Captain’s crew accountability tag should be clipped to the tag line prior to entry.



6. Take up the Support#1 position behind officer along the tag line brings RIC bag and forcible entry tool.
7. Work with your crew to search for and rescue the down firefighter.
8. Supply down FF with proper air support.

#### *Support #2 – Fire Engineer*

1. Fourth In-Line For Entry.
2. Don full P.P.E. and S.C.B.A. in “Standby.”
3. Secure R.I.C. cache.
4. Turn your accountability tag over and anchor the tag line to the outside of the building.
5. Take up the Support #2 position along the tag line behind Support #1.
6. Ties indicator knots in tag line as directed by Lead or R.I.C.
7. Limit the slack in the tag line along the advance, and tie off the tag line at the down firefighter, [Figure 29-7](#).
8. Work with your crew to extricate the down firefighter, following the tag line out of the building.



Figure 29-7 Support #2 is responsible for tending the tag line.

#### *Contact With The Lost/Downed Firefighter*

1. Once the firefighter is found, several concerns need to be addressed immediately.
2. All personnel in the R.I.C. chain as well as I.C. need to be advised of their condition.
3. The down Firefighter’s personal alarm device needs to be deactivated to aid in communication .
4. Determine the need for an immediate or delayed extrication.
5. Provide supplemental air for the down firefighter if need be.
6. Establish a resource rescue chain if needed.
7. The tag line used to gain entry needs to get detached from the R.I.C. members.
8. The tag line needs to have all the slack pulled out of it and then secured to a fixed object.
9. Extricate the downed firefighter.

#### *Lead*

1. Communicate to R.I.C. that contact has been made.
2. Assess the condition of the down Firefighter.
3. Stabilize the area, and assess the need for rescue equipment
4. Call out needs to other R.I.C. personnel.



4. Detach any tag line devices attached to S.C.B.A.
5. If the down Firefighter is incapacitated, help prepare the Firefighter for extrication.
6. Lead the R.I.C. out of the building, [Figure 29-8](#).

### *R.I.C. Officer*

1. Contact R.I.C. – Group or I.C. with a “Size up” of the situation.
2. Set up a resource/rescue chain if needed with additional R.I.C. personnel.
3. Call for any additional equipment needed to help extricate the Firefighter.
4. Detach any tag line devices.
5. Assist in leading the R.I.C. out of the building or bring up the rear, [Figure 29-8](#).

### *Support 1*

1. Bring up the additional air supply (RIC bag) for the down Firefighter if needed.
2. Assist Lead with stabilizing the down Firefighter.
3. Maintains contact with the down Firefighter, and is responsible for their extrication.

### *Support 2*

1. Secure the tag line by pulling out all the slack in the line.
2. Tie off the tag line to a secure object if possible.
3. Assist Lead and Support 1 with the stabilization and extrication of the down Firefighter.
4. Work with Support 1 to extricate down Firefighter.
5. Take up the “Rear” on the way out if not involved in dragging or carrying out the down Firefighter and carry out equipment.

## RIC-UAC Emergency Operations

*Refer to Drill Manual Chapter 6 - SCBA - Emergency Operations*

## EBSS Buddy Breathing Operations

*Refer to Drill Manual Chapter 6 - SCBA - Emergency Operations*

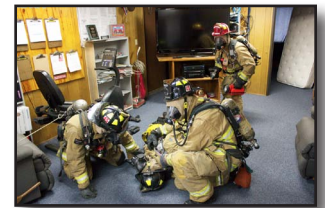


Figure 29-8 The RIC Officer should either assist in leading the crew out (top) or bring up the rear to ensure all crew members have exited safely (bottom)



Figure 29-9 Support 1 and Support 2 assist with the removal of the downed FF



[Link 29-1 Chapter 6 SCBA Drill Manual](#)



## SCBA Mask Replacement in IDLH (Used As A Last Resort)

If there is a failure of the downed firefighters mask, the downed firefighter is missing a mask, or their SCBA is not compatible with the SDFD RIC Bag, the SCBA mask provided in the RIC bag shall be used to supply air to the downed firefighter. This method should only be done as a last resort when it has been determined that the UAC hot-fill and EBSS Buddy Breathing method will not work for the situation.



Figure 29-10 SCBA mask replacement should be used only as a last resort or when the FF is from another agency that uses a non-compatible SCBA

To don the RIC Bag SCBA mask, have the face piece out and connected to the EBSS with doffing switch not depressed to allow air to flow. This will help in keeping contaminants away from the victims face and supply air until the face piece is donned, *Figure 29-10*.

- Make sure the victim is low to the ground before taking off the damage face piece.
- Apply new face piece and secure the straps to maintain a good seal, and put safety gear back on.
- This option may be used with other departments that do not have the UAC or EBSS connections.

### *Key Points When Filling With The UAC or EBSS*

- Remember to check the victims SCBA for damage and the cylinder valve is open all the way. If there is damage to the cylinder you must use the EBSS connect.
- Once the UAC is connected you as the rescuer will not notice any significant event, the bottle will fill in approximately 50 seconds. (When training with UAC only use empty bottles in the RIC pack).
- When using the EBSS on a victim that needs to be extricated place the entire RIC on the victims lap with buckle strap around there neck to keep the bag with the victim.

### *Once deployed, RIC shall:*

- Execute the search plan
- Locate the crew/ member
- Assess firefighter and environment
- Fill air cylinder and package down firefighter
- Monitor entry team air supply
- Provide PPN report to IC and RIC Group Supervisor
- Prepare to extricate firefighter



## Back- Up RIC

Upon deployment of RIC, an additional priority for the IC will be to re-staff the depleted or deployed RIC positions. This re-staffed RIC will be known as “Back Up RIC.” This back up team shall be equipped and positioned to assist with firefighter rescue/retrieval efforts as determined necessary by the supervising entity. This back-up team can be positioned to potentially augment the current firefighter rescue effort if needed or stage for an additional deployment assignment.

- RIC for entry team.
- Communicate rescue plan.
- Secure additional resources.
- Prepare for relay rescue.
- Provide exterior support for initial entry team.

## RIC Group Supervisor Functions

When multiple RIC groups have been formed, a RIC Group Supervisor should be designated to oversee them. Their responsibilities include:

- Communicate directly with IC or Operations Section Chief.
- Monitor assigned radio channel.
- Insure RIC equipment is in position.
- Recon the hot zone.
  - Apparatus placement
  - Points of entry
  - Alternate doors and windows
  - Building construction
  - Hazards
  - Fire progression
- Request additional resources if needed.
- Insure additional means of egress for roof operations or companies operating above the ground floor are provided.
- Consider directing the removal of security bars/devices.
- Coordinate the opening of doors and windows.
- Insure illumination of entrance and exits.
- Confirm utilities are secured.
- Communicate the search and rescue plan to all RIC crews and IC.



# Fire Ground Accountability



Figure 29-11 An accountability officer must be located at each point of ingress/egress

Good communication and accountability on the fire ground is essential to firefighter safety. Due to the stressful and chaotic nature of emergency incidents and fire fighting, breakdowns in communications are common and often result in tragedy. For this reason, a physical system for tracking personnel and their activities is mandated by OSHA anytime personnel enter an IDLH atmosphere.

Personnel Accountability (P/A) will be initiated and used throughout an incident that requires the use of two-in/two-out. An IC may implement P/A at any incident, at any time, if conditions warrant.

## Accountability Tags

In order to meet the OSHA requirement, the SDFD has created aluminum accountability tags that are clipped to the left shoulder strap of every SCBA on the department. As a general rule, if your mask goes on your accountability tag must get turned in.

### Color Codes

These accountability tags are color coded by apparatus type and engraved with the apparatus ID and crew number:

- Red – Engine
- Black – Truck
- Purple – Chief Officers & ICS Command Staff Positions
- Green – Specialty (Rescue, Haz-Mat, Light & Air, etc.)
- Blue – Ambulance Personnel / EMS

### Company Accountability Tags

A hexagonal shaped, company accountability tag is carried by the company officer in addition to their personal accountability tag. This company accountability tag is used for the purpose of tracking the entire company during large scale incidents. For example, during WMD, Haz-Mat, or high-rise incidents, the company accountability tag should be left at the perimeter of the warm zone or the lobby in high-rise fires. This company accountability tag is color coded the same as the personal accountability tags and contains the following information:

- Agency Identifier
- Resource Type
- Unit ID#



### STANDARD ACCOUNTABILITY TAG (Samples)

All 2" x 1 1/8" Dog Tags no notch are all Anodized Aluminum Laser Engraved on both sides

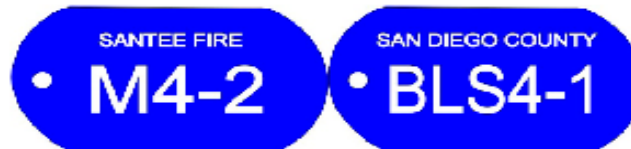
**TYPE 1 & TYPE 3 Engines - Red Tag with Agency Name, Resource Type, Resource Number and Rank / Position Number**



**Trucks - Black Tag with Agency Name, Resource Type, Resource Number and Rank / Position Number**



**Medic or BLS Rig - Blue Tag with Agency Name, Resource Type, Resource Number and Rank / Position Number**



**Chief Officers and Other Staff - Purple Tag with Agency Name, Resource Type, Resource Number**

FC - Fire Chief      DIV - Division Chief      TRN - Training Staff      B - Battalion Chief  
AC - Assistant Chief      DEP - Deputy Chief      SFTY - Safety Staff



**Specialty Rig & Resources - Green Tag with Agency Name, Resource Type, Resource Number and Rank / Position Number if Applicable**

HM - Haz Mat Rigs      LA - Light & Air Rigs      CPTR - Helicopters  
R - Recue Rigs      INV - Arson Investigators      XR - Bomb Units



### STANDARD COMPANY TAG Samples & ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT

1 1/8" HEXAGON SHAPED Anodized Aluminum Laser Engraved on both sides  
Color coded with Agency Name, Resource Type, Resource Number





## Accountability Box



Figure 29-12 Accountability Box/Clipboard

An accountability box is assigned to every engine, truck, operations battalion chief and other specific vehicles, [Figure 29-12](#). These boxes will be stored immediately next to the captain’s SCBA on applicable apparatus. It will be readily accessible on other vehicles. Boxes will have the following contents:

- LCD clock
- Pens and pencils
- FD-901 Accountability Tracking Report

Every accountability box will contain at least two Accountability Tracking Reports - FD 901(ATR) pads. ATR tracks tag numbers, location and the time personnel went into the IDLH. Each entry is lined out when personnel exit building. If personnel are immediately returning to the IDLH, cross out “time in” and enter new time when re-entry is made.

## Accountability Officer – A/O

An accountability officer is required at all utilized entrance and exit points of an IDLH atmosphere in order to ensure accurate accountability, [Figure 29-11](#). The accountability officer is tasked with collecting the tags of the firefighters upon their entrance and exit from the IDLH atmosphere as well as recording their time and location of assignment on the orange accountability clipboard.

The A/O position can be filled by any properly trained firefighter. A/O’s must maintain radio contact with the IC and the interior teams. They must have full PPE with SCBA on, in the “standby mode.” A/O’s are responsible for accountability of individuals inside of the IDLH atmosphere.



Figure 29-13 The crew member’s accountability tags should be clipped to the officers tag and then attached to the accountability box/clipboard

## Tag & Clipboard Management

Attach each crews tags together by clipping them to the company officers accountability tag, then clip the company officers tag to one row of the accountability box, [Figure 29-13](#). This confirms that teams always go in and come out together. This technique also aids emergency accountability by rapidly identifying crew members working together, while saving the A/O time by not making multiple entries for personnel working on the same team.

## Multiple A/O’s

It must be remembered that each point of entry (POE) requires the assignment of an Accountability Officer (A/O). If the POE’s are in close proximity, they may be covered by the same A/O. If





this becomes unmanageable or the accuracy of the accountability is questionable, multiple A/O's are required. The IC must ensure a sufficient number of A/O's are assigned to track all POE's into an IDLH atmosphere. Aerial ladders, ground ladders, doors and windows are examples of POE's. All must be covered by an A/O if used to enter the structure.

## Personal Accountability Report - PAR

Personnel accountability reports (PAR) are verbal by radio or face-to-face confirmation of interior team(s) status and welfare. A PAR may be initiated by the IC, division supervisor, A/O or safety officer, after approval from the IC. On smaller incidents the IC or designee can utilize the A/O's ATR to check the status of interior teams. Contacting the company officer may provide the information needed.

### Initiating a PAR

A PAR should be conducted:

- When changing from offensive to defensive mode.
- After any significant event (collapse, explosion, etc.).
- During extended periods of interior attack.
- Following suspicion or confirmation of firefighter down/trapped/missing.
- Following the building evacuation signal.
- As deemed necessary.

### PAR - Large Scale Incidents

On larger incidents, the IC or designee can use the A/O's ATR to check the status of interior teams through the respective division supervisor. Division supervisors may do a PAR among assigned interior teams, then report findings to the IC. Division supervisors should work closely with A/O's to confirm personnel working in their assigned areas. Contact shall be attempted with crews not accounted for by radio and by utilizing the last known position (check with A/O, division supervisor and other crews in work area).

Radio traffic should be kept to an absolute minimum during a PAR. Conducting a PAR during a large incident can be difficult. Delegation to division supervisors and company officers may help to reduce this traffic.

## Individual Responsibility To Accountability

It is ultimately the responsibility of all firefighters to report to the accountability officer with their tags upon entrance and exit from an IDLH atmosphere. The importance of this cannot be stressed enough as your life may depend upon the information held by the accountability officer.

Tags must be removed from the crew's SCBA, attached to one another and given to the A/O prior to entering the IDLH. Tags must be recovered from the



A/O anytime the building is exited, regardless of the exit point. This is mandatory to maintain accurate accountability. Both tags must be picked up by both firefighters at the same time. No one should exit an IDLH without their partner. All personnel must monitor one another for compliance.

## Company Officer Responsibility to Accountability

Company Officers must ensure crew members understand and comply with requirements of two-in/two-out and personal accountability. All on-scene officers are directly responsible and the IC ultimately responsible for the proper use of the accountability system.

- Personnel shall not be inside of an IDLH atmosphere with their tag attached to their SCBA.
- Personnel shall not be outside of an IDLH atmosphere without their tag attached to their SCBA.

Company Officers must log firefighters on the MDC daily and update any staffing changes throughout their shift as necessary for tracking purposes. Additionally, company officers must ensure that the portable radio database is updated with the proper radio ID numbers in order for FCC to properly track emergency transmissions.



# Mutual Aid Incidents

Due to the increased need for agency interoperability, and in order to reduce confusion and standardize operations among the different agencies in San Diego County, the fire chiefs have come to agreement regarding RIC and Accountability procedures. As of July 1, 2012, all agencies operating within San Diego County have agreed to, and adopted the following RIC and Accountability practices in this chapter. Although the procedures have been standardized, the IC must recognize the different staffing levels of other fire agencies responding to the incident and make their decisions accordingly.



# Media & Link Index



RIC Bag Video



San Diego Metro Zone Operations - Fireground Accountability



San Diego Metro Zone Operations - RIC



Emergency SCBA Procedures



SCBA - Chapter 6, SDFD Drill Manual



RIC Bag SCBA Procedures



San Diego Metro Zone Policy - Fireground Accountability



San Diego Metro Zone Policy - RIC



# References

1. SDFD Rapid Intervention Crew PPT - SDFD 72nd Academy
2. San Diego Metro Zone Ops Policy - Fire Ground Accountability 2012
3. San Diego Metro Zone Ops Policy - Rapid Intervention Crew 2012

# Credits

## **Layout & Editing:**

John Brubaker

## **Media:**

Jared Cheselske, Tim Munholand, Brian Carpenter, Jodi Pierce, Mark Reece

## **Grammatical Editing:**

***NOTE: If you have any additional information or content that you feel would be appropriate to contribute to this Chapter or would like to report any errors or misrepresentations, please contact the SDFD Training Division or email the Drill Manual Revision Staff at***

***SDFDDrillManualTeam@SanDiego.gov***

