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OPERATIONS MANUAL

STANDARD INSTRUCTION 01 FIRE SUPPRESSION

SECTION 18 RAPID INTERVENTION CREW

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I. PURPOSE

Cal OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard, Title 8, California Code of Regulations, Section 5144 and NFPA 1500 mandate the adherence to the “Two-in, Two-out” policy when working within an Immediate Danger to Life and Health (IDLH) atmosphere. Two methods of meeting these mandates are through the use of Initial Rapid Intervention Crew (IRIC) or Rapid Intervention Crews (RIC) and personnel accountability tracking.

The objective of IRIC/RIC is to have a fully equipped rescue team on site, in a ready state, to immediately react and respond to rescue distressed, lost, unaccounted for, or trapped firefighters. IRIC/RIC will be established anytime firefighters enter an IDLH, potential IDLH, unknown atmosphere, or when deemed necessary by the Incident Commander (IC).

This policy shall be applied during all incidents in which personnel may reasonably be expected to be called upon to operate in an IDLH atmosphere. This policy shall also apply to other incidents in which the incident commander anticipates incident personnel may be exposed to other hazardous conditions, including but not limited to trench rescue, swift water rescue, or other incidents in which conditions can deteriorate.

The Training and Drill Manual contains detailed information on specific operational safety concerns. Please refer to the Safety Section for this information.

II. SCOPE

This policy shall apply to all SDFD personnel.

III. AUTHORITY

The Fire Chief authorizes the information within this policy.

IV. POLICY

A. Required Implementation

1. Use in and Immediate Danger to Life and Health (IDLH) environments:
 - a. 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.
2. This procedure shall be implemented at all working interior structural fires or situations where an equipment failure or sudden change in conditions may trap or injure personnel, or any incident that poses significant risk to firefighter safety.

B. General Information

1. This policy shall require that a team of at least three or more make up a RIC team.
2. This team shall be made up of fully equipped firefighters; led by a Company Officer.

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3. The RIC team should be on scene optimally during interior operations which involve an unknown, potential, or an actual IDLH atmosphere.
4. The IC shall request additional resources to ensure adequate resources are at scene to safely manage the incident.
5. The IC and Company Officers will ensure that all personnel are in the proper personal protective equipment.

C. Initial Rapid Intervention Crew (IRIC and Two In/Two Out) and Operations

1. Engineers will don their turnout pants and boots before responding to any structure fire.
2. 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.
3. Once immediate pumping operations have been established, the engineer shall immediately don full PPE.
4. An engineer serving as a member of a RIC shall have an SCBA readily available.
5. IRIC shall be establish and identified prior to the entry of any personnel into the IDLH. (See exception below)
6. One primary IRIC member must be solely dedicated to tracking interior personnel.
 - a. Their function will be to account for location of interior crews and initiate a firefighter rescue.
 - b. This position requires a:
 - 1) Dedicated hose line
 - 2) Radio
 - 3) Proper PPE
 - 4) SCBA
 - 5) Accountability board
7. The secondary IRIC member is permitted to take on other roles, such as, safety officer, or equipment operator. This position requires:
 - 1) A radio
 - 2) Proper PPE
 - 3) SCBA nearby to be donned as soon as possible

D. Emergency Rescue Exception

1. When a first-in company arrives at scene and an emergency rescue exists:
 - a. These can be verbal reports, visual sightings, obvious indicators
 - b. Where immediate action may prevent loss of life or serious injury
 - c. Personnel shall carefully evaluate the level of risk they will be exposed to upon initiating the rescue.

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- d. Under these conditions, operations that are necessary to affect an emergency rescue shall be permitted without the establishment of an IRIC.
 - e. This is the only exception. It is for an emergency rescue situation only and not for standard search and rescue practices.
2. If action is taken in accordance with the “exception” provision:
 - a. An FD-7 shall be submitted to the on-duty shift commander, via the chain of command, by the end of the shift.
 - b. The report shall include:
 - 1) Details of the attempt or actual rescue
 - 2) Factors that led to the rescue being initiated
 - 3) Safety procedures used
 - 4) Occurrence of injury to Fire-Rescue employees
 - 5) The status of any rescued person
 - 6) The report shall be retained in Department files for OSHA inspection purposes.
 3. 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 IRIC is not yet assembled.

E. Standard Implementation for IRIC

1. IRIC can be used by the first arriving company officer who assumes command and is making an interior attack with the nozzle person.
2. The drop off person assumes the primary IRIC position and the engineer assumes the secondary IRIC position.
3. This may be any combination of personnel as the situation dictates.

F. RIC Group

1. The IC shall designate a company officer as the RIC Group Supervisor.
2. The IC shall designate an Accountability Officer (See SI 02, Section 38) and assign them to the RIC Group.
3. The IC or first due Battalion Chief can make this assignment while units are en route to the incident or upon arrival at scene.
4. In most cases the 3rd arriving engine company will be designated as the RIC.
5. The IC may assign more than one company as RIC if necessary.
6. Operations at a large or more complex nature may call for multiple RIC and Accountability Officers at different entry points.
 - a. Upon the arrival of additional companies, the IC has the following options for use:
 - 1) At complex incidents, consider assigning a Chief Officer as RIC Group Supervisor.

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- 2) Assign the companies to other duties, such as relief for working crews.
 7. If assigned to other duties, the IC may request additional companies for RIC purposes.
 8. RIC Group Responsibilities
 - a. Enroute to the incident, potential RIC units shall monitor the tactical radio channel and should initiate a tactical worksheet noting location of operating companies.
 - b. Upon assignment of RIC responsibilities, the RIC Group Supervisor shall obtain a briefing from the IC or the IRIC they are relieving on the status and location of all assigned companies.
 - c. RIC will be located at a safe position, outside the IDLH condition and still able to monitor conditions by visual observation, communication with assigned personnel, monitoring radio traffic, or assignment of observers.
 - d. The resources assigned as RIC, shall know the strategic mode of the fire (offensive/defensive), tactics being deployed and any other pertinent information.
 - e. The IC may utilize the RIC Group resources to aid in victim rescue. If this option is utilized, the IC will designate a new RIC Group immediately.
 - f. Additional resources should be requested to maintain adequate suppression and RIC assignments.
 - g. Crews shall be cautious of creating openings to the exterior that may cause changes in interior fire behavior.
 - 1) 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.
 - h. RIC Team personnel will:
 - 1) Maintain awareness of working companies, their locations and fire conditions.
 - 2) Acquire equipment and tool cache for firefighter rescue
 - 3) If assigned RIC at a multi-agency incident, consider procuring a RIC pack from each agency represented, depending upon compatibility of the RIC pack fittings and equipment.
 - 4) Develop and Communicate a RIC Action Plan
 - 5) Develop and Communicate a Search Plan
 - 6) Develop and Communicate a Rescue Plan
- G. Automatic Aid and/or Mutual Aid Responses
1. If a San Diego unit is assigned to a different jurisdiction as RIC Group, meet with the IC for the assigned RIC Group channel.

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2. Emergency button activation on radio will default to channel P of your assigned Command Group.
3. Preplan and training should be done with neighboring jurisdictions to discuss methods of:
 - a. Accountability
 - b. Communication
 - c. RIC equipment compatibility
 - d. How best to work in each other's systems

H. RIC Team Deployment

1. In the event the IRIC/RIC is deployed for firefighter rescue, the firefighter in distress will continue to be called by their original incident assigned designator.
2. Upon receipt of a firefighter MAYDAY call or when unable to account for personnel, IRIC/RIC will be deployed. The IC will make a general announcement to incident personnel of a MAYDAY and an IRIC/RIC deployment.
3. IC will announce "Emergency Traffic" and clear radio traffic on the channel designated for the rescue effort.
 - a. In this announcement, the IC and the RIC Group Supervisor (if established) will acknowledge the channel to communicate with the IRIC/RIC and where entry into the structure is made.
 - b. IC/RIC GRP SUP will confirm communications with that RIC/IRIC and IC will notify Dispatch of the deployment.
4. The RIC Team will:
 - a. Execute the search plan
 - b. Locate the firefighter having called the MAYDAY
 - c. Assess firefighter and environment
 - d. Fill air cylinder and package downed firefighter
 - e. Monitor entry team air supply
 - f. Provide PPN report to IC and RIC Group Supervisor
 - g. Prepare to extricate firefighter
 - h. Members working in the immediate area shall be notified by the Incident Commander or Operations to assist in the rescue effort if at all possible without jeopardizing incident stabilization efforts. Sufficient resources must remain focused on stabilization efforts of the incident. This includes controlling the spread of the fire and/or continuing hazard mitigation efforts.

I. Back- Up Entry Team

1. Will be responsible for providing a RIC for the entry team
2. Obtain the current rescue plan and formulate a new rescue plan, taking into consideration the current situation

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3. Secure additional resources
4. Prepare for relay rescue of the firefighter having called the MAYDAY
5. Provide exterior support for initial entry team

J. RIC Group Supervisor Functions

1. Monitor assigned radio channel(s)
2. Insure RIC equipment is in position
3. Recon the hot zone
4. Request additional resources if needed
5. Insure additional means of egress for roof operations or companies operating above the ground floor are provided
6. Consider directing the removal of security bars/devices
7. Coordinate the opening of doors and windows
8. Insure illumination of entrance and exits
9. Confirm utilities are secured
10. Communicate the search and rescue plan to all RIC crews and IC.

K. Disbanding of IRIC and/or RIC

1. Announcing the disbanding of an IRIC/RIC component is critical information that needs to be disseminated to all personnel remaining at scene. When considering the disbanding of the IRIC/RIC, the IC shall ensure the following points are considered:
 - a. IRIC/RIC shall not be disbanded until all hazards have been mitigated or all crews are no longer working in a hazardous environment.
 - b. Communicate the disbanding of the RIC/IRIC to all incident personnel on the common operating channel.
 - c. Prior to disbanding IRIC/RIC a final PAR too account for all incident personnel.
 - d. Continually monitor the scene for a change of events or conditions that may necessitate the reassigning of an IRIC/RIC.