

Standard Operating Procedure  
500.3  
Rapid Intervention Team (R.I.T.)

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this standard is for the safety of fire fighters at an incident and is of the highest priority. Interior structural attack and search and rescue operations are the most dangerous operations on fire scene. Conditions within a structure on fire are always unknown and constantly changing. The RIT team provides fire fighters a level of security and safety in knowing a team is trained and available to rescue them if they become trapped.

This standard will aid to standardize the response, responsibilities, equipment and operations of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) for the Hopkins County Fire Department for the purpose of rescuing or assisting firefighters who are in distress or trapped at an emergency incident.

**Scope:**

This procedure shall be utilized by the Hopkins County Fire Department at all structural fires involving interior attacks or confined space rescues being made within HCFD's jurisdiction (The entire county) and will be adopted by any agent of the county that operates under contract with the Hopkins County Fire Department.

**Procedure:**

This procedure will be utilized all structure fire in which interior operations are taking place and should be utilized in conjunction with the Hopkins County Fire Department Standard operating Guideline "Response to Structure Fires" and is outlined as follows;

RIT Team Duties:

Rapid Intervention Team will consist of a minimum of four (4) firefighters who are trained, equipped and immediately available for rapid intervention; their primary purpose is to locate, assist and rescue trapped or downed firefighters.

Team Leader – Once assigned;

- 1) The RIT Team Leader will be directly accountable to the Incident Safety Officer in the Chain of Command.
- 2) The Team Leader will be assigned for each RIT established at an emergency incident. The Team Leader will report directly to the IC.

- 3) The Team Leader will be a senior firefighter or the ranking officer of each team.
- 4) The team leader will check in with Safety Officer to verify the team is assembled and ready.
- 5) The RIT Team Leader shall ensure that all members have one (1) radio for each firefighter assigned as a RIT member.
- 6) Identify radio frequencies being used and ensure all radios assigned to RIT Members are properly programmed.
- 7) Advise Safety Officer of team's staging area.
- 8) Perform or designate a RIT member to perform periodic 360 degree walk around of the incident for the purpose of size-up, identifying secondary escape routes and safety evaluations if no Safety Officer has been assigned and will be directly accountable to the Incident Commander.

RIT Members;

A RIT will consist of four (4) members a Team Leader and 3 RIT Members as a minimum and will be accountable for the following;

- 1) RIT members shall have under ideal circumstances have completed the following training courses;
  - Firefighter 1 and 2
  - First Responder level Medical training
  - RIT Training
  - Hazardous Materials Awareness
  - Radio Operations utilized by the HCFD.
- 2) Determine the availability and readiness of all necessary equipment.
- 3) Perform size-up and evaluate intervention strategies for the incident.
- 4) Maintain a constant state of readiness continually re-evaluating the incident to react to changing conditions.
- 5) The RIT Team shall have one (1) radio for each firefighter assigned as a RIT member.

Staging of RIT;

- 1) The RIT Team shall stage on the A side of the structure on fire.
- 2) A corner of the A side of the structure maybe utilized to provide a view of 2 sides of the structure.
- 3) The RIT Team shall stage with good visibility and access of all sides of the structure.
- 4) An alternate side may be chosen based on the Team Leader's judgment that it will provide for a better response.

Activation of the RIT Team;

- 1) The RIT Team will only move into action at the direction of the Incident Safety Officer.
- 2) The team will follow the direction and orders of the Team Leader without question.
- 3) Failure to follow department procedure for RIT Team during a RIT Team activation will be grounds for immediate discipline upon return to quarters, which may include but not be limited to removal from position with the Hopkins County Fire Department.
- 4) If RIT is deployed, another RIT shall be established immediately and designated at RIT Team number 2.

Fire Chief T. Kevin Yates  
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