

LAKEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

SOG NUMBER: 301.06	EMERGENCY OPERATIONS
DATE IMPLEMENTED: JUNE 14, 2017 DATE REVISED:	TITLE: RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM (RIT)

PURPOSE:

These provisions are promulgated and designed to provide a structured approach for RIT use whenever personnel are required to work in an environment that requires the use of self-contained breathing apparatus, or where personnel may become lost, trapped, or injured by the environment.

SCOPE:

This guideline shall apply to all Department personnel operating as a RIT at any emergency scene.

1. A RIT consisting of at least four (4) personnel shall be implemented for all interior firefighting operations. However, until such time a complement of four (4) RIT personnel are staged in a “ready mode” on the incident scene, the Incident Commander shall make every effort to implement a RIT with a minimum of two (2) firefighters and nothing stated or implied herein this SOG shall prevent the IC from doing so.
2. RIT personnel shall NOT be comprised of personnel assigned other fireground duties and/or functions such as the Incident Commander, Pump Operator, etc.
3. The RIT may be comprised of mutual aid personnel.
4. The RIT will operate within the Incident Command System and shall be identified as a separate entity in the Personal Accountability System.
5. The RIT shall remain in a constant state of readiness at a specific location designated by the Incident Commander and remain capable of making rapid entry into an environment to rescue personnel who are injured, trapped or missing.
6. Personnel assigned to RIT duties shall be properly equipped with full turnout gear including donned SCBA (with personal facepiece off until necessary), as well as other “RIT ONLY” designated equipment appropriate for the hazard, including but not limited to portable radios, ropes, hand lights, forcible entry tools, thermal imaging camera, power saws, attic ladder, rescue air supply, etc. that shall be placed in a ready state on an Equipment Tarp.
7. RIT personnel shall initiate a size-up of the fire building upon assignment, noting the location of interior, exterior and roof crews as well as the location of primary and secondary means of entry and egress. Special attention shall be given to building construction type, safety hazards, scene conditions such as rapidly changing fire conditions, signs of imminent collapse, backdraft, flashover, etc.

8. Whenever the RIT is activated, the Incident Commander must immediately activate another team to replace the activated RIT.
9. Due to the size and complexity of a situation, the incident may warrant the Incident Commander to implement more than one (1) RIT.
10. The RIT will operate using the “AWARE” principle which represents critical needs associated with firefighter rescue as follows:
 - A – Air
 - W – Water (Providing a redundant Air supply and creating a defensible space with Water using hose lines will provide valuable time for extrication)
 - A R - A Radio (Getting a radio to the downed firefighter will allow assessment of the individual and inform of their ability to self-extricate)
 - E – Extrication
11. Extrication must be performed as rapidly as possible with the primary focus upon the safety of those to be rescued as well as those carrying out the rescue tasks.