

POLICY: 2 IN / 2 OUT

Hadley Township Fire Department
Policy #104

I. PURPOSE

This document is meant to set forth policy and guidelines for members of the Hadley Township Fire Department when confronted with emergency incidents. This document is not intended to prevent an Incident Commander from starting fire suppression activity (not entering) or rescue operations (entering) in a structural incident.

II. SCOPE

This directive applies to all Hadley Township Fire Department Personnel who may be engaged in fire suppression, rescue or other emergency operations. This document supercedes all previous documents concerning comparable duties. It is intended to:

1. Prevent accidents; injuries and deaths that might result from an unsafe act while members are operating at an emergency incident.
2. Define the minimum personnel requirements for the safe conduct of emergency scene operations.

III. DEFINITIONS

1. The word "shall" will indicate mandatory action.
2. The word "may" will indicate discretionary action.
3. Immediate Danger to Life and Health will hereafter be referred to as "IDLH."
4. "Hazardous areas" are any areas where a hazard exists to life or health.
5. Rapid Intervention Team will hereafter be referred to as "RIT."
6. A "working fire" is a fire that requires the use of a 1 ½" or larger hose line and/or the use of SCBA.
7. The person having command responsibility at a fire/rescue incident will be referred to as "Incident Commander."

IV. POLICY

It is the policy of the Hadley Township Fire Department to establish a rapid intervention team (RIT) as soon as practical, to ensure the safety of firefighters, and provide rescue and fire suppression service to citizens.

V. GUIDELINES

- A. No member shall commence or perform any firefighting or rescue operations that are not within the established safety guidelines of the department.
 1. Activities that present a significant risk to the safety of a member shall be limited to situations where there is a potential to save endangered lives.
 2. It is unacceptable to risk the safety of a member when there is no chance of saving lives.
- B. When an inexperienced member is working at an incident, direct supervision by an experienced officer or member shall be provided at all times.

- C. Members operating in hazardous areas at emergency incidents shall operate in teams of two or more. Team members operating in hazardous areas shall be in constant communication with each other at all times through visual, auditory or physical means. Team members shall remain in close proximity to each other to provide assistance in case of emergency.
- D. Team members shall enter and leave the hazardous area together. Whenever this "2 in/2 out" policy is not adhered to, a written report shall be submitted to the chief. This report shall include the need for such action.
- E. Any firefighter experiencing changes in breathing resistance, or leakage of the face piece shall notify his fellow crewmember and the Incident Commander. Any team with a firefighter experiencing SCBA malfunction or breathing difficulty shall leave the Hazardous area immediately.
- F. An interior firefighting effort shall not take place at a working structure fire until a minimum of four trained firefighters is present.
 - 1. When only four firefighters are present, two members shall work as a team in the hazardous area and two members shall remain on standby outside the hazardous area, ready for entry into the hazardous area to provide emergency assistance or rescue. Members on standby to provide rescue service shall be fully equipped and trained in effective rescue techniques.
 - 2. Exception: Rescue operations may be undertaken prior to the arrival of four firefighters if there is an immediate life threatening situation and immediate action could prevent loss of life or serious injury. No exception shall be permitted if there is no chance of saving lives or preventing serious injury.
- G. Standby members shall be responsible for maintaining a constant awareness of the number, identity, location, function and time of entry of the members operating in the hazardous area. The standby members shall remain in constant communication with the members in the hazardous area through radio, visual, voice or signal line.
- H. Standby members shall be permitted to perform other duties outside the hazardous area provided that their activities do not jeopardize their ability to rescue the members operating in the hazardous area. Constant communication must be maintained with the members in the hazardous area at all times.
 - 1. The assignment of standby personnel to other duties shall not be permitted if it will jeopardize the safety or health of any other firefighter at the incident
 - 2. The assignment of personnel to other duties shall not be permitted if it will inhibit their ability to assist in or perform a rescue.
 - 3. Standby members shall be equipped with full protective clothing and SCBA.
- I. When additional members arrive and teams begin operating in the hazardous area the incident commander shall designate at least one rapid intervention team (RIT) to stand by in the event that a rescue becomes necessary.
- J. Rapid Intervention Team
 - 1. The RIT shall consist of at least two (2) members who shall be available to rescue team members should the need arise.
 - 2. The RIT shall be fully equipped with the appropriate clothing, protective equipment, SCBA and any specialized rescue equipment that may be necessary considering the specifics of the incident.
 - 3. The composition and structure of the RIT shall be flexible based on incident type, size and complexity.

4. The appropriate number of RITs shall be provided as indicated by incident conditions. As the incident grows in complexity the number of RITs will increase proportionally and shall be dedicated solely to that responsibility.

K. RITs shall be deployed as follows:

1. On-scene personnel designated and dedicated as RIT crewmembers may perform other functions if it does not compromise their ability to re-deploy and perform RIT crew functions.
2. Personnel shall not be assigned as members of a RIT if abandoning rescue tasks clearly jeopardizes the safety and health of any person at the incident.
3. Personnel working in IDLH atmospheres which have progressed beyond the incipient stage, or in Haz-Mat operations, shall work in teams which have a minimum of two (2) person who remain in visual or voice contact at all times.
4. The Incident Commander shall be notified upon entry by the RIT into the hazardous area to affect a rescue. A back-up RIT shall be deployed which shall provide necessary assistance appropriate to the situation. The Incident Commander shall have the discretion to utilize any personnel as a back-up RIT if the circumstances or lack of staffing should so dictate.

L. Personnel deployed as RIT crew members shall be equipped with:

1. Full protective clothing and positive pressure SCBAs.
2. A charged hose of at least 1 ½" in diameter.
3. Appropriate retrieval equipment for removing personnel who enter IDLH atmospheres whenever such equipment would facilitate the rescue of personnel and not increase the risk of entry.

VI. INCIDENT COMMUNICATIONS

- A. RITs shall be provided with radios and shall monitor the fire-ground frequency.
- B. The term "MAYDAY" shall be used by anyone at the scene who becomes aware of or is involved in a life-threatening situation.
- C. The term "EMERGENCY" shall be used by anyone who needs to communicate an urgent message.
- D. During MAYDAY or EMERGENCY communications all other radio traffic shall immediately stop.

VII. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. It shall be the responsibility of each fire department member to fully comply with the provisions of this standard.
- B. Officers shall be responsible for their crews and ensure they are not exposed to any unnecessary risk.
- C. The incident commander shall be responsible for ordering sufficient resources to ensure that all emergency incident function is performed in a safe manner.