

POLICY: RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM (R.I.T.)

Hadley Township Fire Department
Policy #105

1. **PURPOSE**

To make provisions for a Rapid Intervention Team (R.I.T.) or teams to be immediately available for the search and rescue of interior fire fighting crews that become trapped or incapacitated.

2. **PROCEDURE:**

The Hadley Township Fire Department shall have a minimum of five personnel present on-scene before interior operations can be initiated on any structure fire. Two firefighters may begin interior operations provided two other firefighters remain outside, standing by as the Rapid Intervention Team (R.I.T.). The driver/operator shall be responsible for water supply to the pump and for pump operation. Normal ICS protocol and procedures shall be followed.

A constant means of communication using voice, visual, or physical contact such as a tethered line shall be maintained at all times between members of the interior team. Interior personnel shall also maintain radio or other form of communication with IC, R.I.T., Safety, or other exterior officers as assigned.

The Rapid Intervention Team (R.I.T.) shall not perform any other assignments once interior entry has been made. The sole purpose of the R.I.T. is to constantly assess the situation, monitor communications, assemble rescue equipment, and remain properly outfitted and ready to respond should rescue of the interior crew become necessary. R.I.T. personnel must also continually size-up the situation noting fire progress, building conditions, entrances, available exits, and any other known hazards.

If sufficient personnel are not present to initiate an interior attack, fire personnel may initiate exterior operations such as, but not limited to: obtaining a water supply, exposure protection, laying attack lines to the structure entrance, preparation for ventilation, ladder placement, shutting down utilities, etc.

In the extreme event that an imminent, life-threatening situation exists prior to the assembling of sufficient personnel, and where immediate interior operations may prevent the loss of life or serious injury, the IC has the authority to take action as deemed necessary. However, before such action is taken, the IC must carefully evaluate the level of risk and the consequences of such action. If the situation warrants such action, the officer shall notify other companies of his/her intentions so that as other companies arrive, support can be provided as quickly as possible.

BUILDING COLLAPSE - PERSONNEL LOST:

Our emergency evacuation policy will be adhered to and the evacuation signal activated to announce a structure collapse in which firefighters may have been trapped or unaccounted for. The IC and/or Safety Officer will hold all radio traffic except for transmissions. Upon the activation of the evacuation signal, all personnel are to report directly to staging for accountability purposes. Roll call will be initiated. The R.I.T. will ready themselves for immediate assignment. In many cases, an offensive attack may be continued as a high priority for the protection of lost or trapped firefighters from the effects of the fire.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT:

While standing by, the R.I.T. should anticipate possible rescue situations and assemble necessary equipment, such as, but not limited to:

- Firefighting apparatus with an established independent water supply
- Spare SCBA's for trapped/lost firefighters (Rescue Mask)
- Search/Rescue Ropes
- Forcible Entry Tools
- Hand lines for fire attack, personal protection, rescue
- Hand lights/interior lighting equipment