

	Queen Anne's County Fire & EMS Commission Operations Manual	No. 02.06
		Effective Date: December 1, 2001
	Rapid Intervention Team	Revised Date: December 1, 2015

I. SCOPE

- A. This policy applies to all Queen Anne's County fire service personnel.

II. PURPOSE

- A. To establish standard practices for deploying a fully equipped rescue team or teams on-site, in a ready state, to immediately react and respond to rescue injured or trapped fire fighters. This procedure will be implemented at any incident where fire personnel are subject to hazards that would be immediately dangerous to life and/or health in the event of an equipment failure, sudden change of conditions or mishap.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. All personnel affiliated with a Queen Anne's County Fire Department will be responsible for ensuring strict adherence to this policy.

IV. DEFINITIONS

- 1. Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) – A crew deployed in a ready state, to immediately react and respond to rescue injured or trapped fire fighters or civilians. A rapid intervention team shall consist of at least four members and shall be available for rescue of a member or a crew if the need arises. Rapid Intervention teams shall be fully equipped with the appropriate protective clothing, protective equipment, SCBA and any specialized rescue equipment that might be needed given the specifics of the operation underway.

V. PROCEDURE

- A. A RIT will be implemented at all multiple alarm fires and other incidents where fire department members are subject to hazards that would be immediately dangerous to life and /or health in the event of an equipment failure, sudden change of conditions or mishap.

- B. A minimum of one company will be assigned and dedicated as the RIT. The RIT will consist of a minimum of four members.
- C. Incident Command may assign more companies if necessary. Operations of large or complex incidents may require multiple RIT units to stand by at different points of entry.
- D. All crewmembers will assume a ready state, including full protective clothing, SCBA and a portable radio.
- E. The RIT company officer will closely monitor the assigned tactical radio channel at all times. The team must be able to react immediately to a sudden emergency event at the incident site.
- F. The RIT should be reserved for immediate life threatening situations, such as fire fighter lost, trapped, injured or other critical situations. The RIT could also be assigned to a special situation, if needed. Upon activation of the RIT to special situations, a replacement RIT will be placed.
- G. The fourth arriving engine will assume the RIT responsibilities. The Incident Commander has the discretion to assign other types of units and can designate the RIT responsibilities to any unit at any time.
 - 1. The Incident Commander should announce to all on scene personnel what unit will be RIT.

VI. RESCUE

- A. When searching for lost or trapped fire fighters, the following should be considered.
 - 1. Knowledge of their last known location.
 - 2. Tracing attack hose lines into the area the fire fighters were known to be.
 - 3. Evidence of building structures or locations that were last described by lost or trapped fire fighters.
 - 4. Listening for the sound of PASS device audible alerts.
 - 5. Listening for the sound of SCBA bells.
 - 6. Sounds of shouts for help, tapping sounds, sounds of breathing, etc.
 - 7. Sounds of portable radio broadcast audible in the search area.
 - 8. Flashlight beam.

- B. Stand by RIT members should be maintained outside the entry points to relieve initial crews as SCBA's go empty. These standby rescue crews may also be required to quickly enter and assist with removal of lost fire fighters once they are located.
- C. When RIT members are performing special operations, the highest available level of emergency medical care should be standing by at the scene with medical equipment and transportation capabilities. Basic Life Support shall be the minimum level of emergency medical care.

William H. Faust, Chairman
Queen Anne's County Fire & EMS Commission