

# **Tempe Fire Department Policies and Procedures**

## **Initial Rapid Intervention Crews and Rapid Intervention Crews (IRIC / RIC) Rescue Sector 205.10**

### **Rev 5-29-09**

#### **PURPOSE:**

This procedure will define the response, tasks and organization of Initial Rapid Intervention Crews and Rapid Intervention Crews (IRIC / RIC)/Rescue Sector.

#### **Objective**

The Tempe Fire Department frequently responds to incidents that present a high safety risk to firefighters. This procedure identifies the requirements for and the operation of IRIC & Rapid Intervention Crews (Rescue Sector) The objective of a RIC company is to have a fully equipped rescue team on-site, in a ready state, to immediately react and respond to the rescue of lost, injured or trapped firefighters or civilians.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

This procedure is intended to increase the overall level of safety for fire department members operating at emergency incidents.

This procedure shall be implemented at all working 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.

Examples of special hazards include, but are not limited to:

- Offensive/Defensive Fire Operations
- Hazardous Materials Incidents
- Trench Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue

#### **IRIC (Initial RIC)**

□ Temporary two-person RIC assigned at the outset of an incident to allow teams to enter an IDLH, or potential IDLH atmosphere.

One primary IRIC member must be solely dedicated to tracking interior personnel. Their function is to account for location of interior crews and initiate a fire fighter rescue. This position requires an attack line, radio, PPE, and SCBA.

The secondary IRIC member is permitted to take on other roles, such as, safety officer, or equipment operator. This position requires a radio with PPE and SCBA nearby to be donned as soon as possible.

#### **Standard Implementation IRIC Four-Person Crew**

IRIC can be used when a mobile Command mode is utilized by the first arriving company officer making an interior attack on a working fire with the nozzle person. The plug person assumes the primary IRIC position and the engineer assumes the secondary IRIC position.

#### **Standard Exceptions to the IRIC Requirement at Structure Fires**

1. When there is a reported life hazard where immediate action could prevent the loss of life.
2. When the fire is in an incipient stage that could be controlled by a portable fire extinguisher.

## Dispatch

Upon declaration of a working fire, the following list of resources will be dispatched for RIC:

- Working 3 & 1 will have one RIC Engine
- Working First Alarm will have two RIC Engines one RIC Ladder & one RIC B.C.
- All additional alarms, will receive an additional two engines, one RIC Ladder

## Deployment

Command has the following options for use of RIC companies:

1. To address visible hazards.
2. To identify critical factors and apply the appropriate Risk Management Profile.
3. Assign the company to RIC duties and designate Rescue Sector/Branch
4. If assigned to anything other than RIC duties, Command should request additional companies as RIC units.
5. Cancel the company en-route after the declaration of fire under control AND PAR's have been obtained from all crews.
6. Assign other duties; such as relief for working crews, overhaul duties, etc.

## RIC/Rescue Sector Responsibilities

- Monitor tactical radio channel en-route
- Initiate tactical worksheet (location/position of apparatus and interior crews)
- Utilize standard staging procedures
- Develop and Communicate an Incident Action Plan (focus is to reduce risks to personnel)
- Consider critical fire ground factors
- Consider air management (elapsed time)
- Consider fire fighter fatigue
- Consider radio communications
- Develop and Communicate a Search Plan
- Consider the point of entry for crew/member in trouble
- Consider the last known location of crew/member in trouble
- Consider fuel load, your water supply/hoseline selection (speed, mobility, and length)
- Assign tasks to entry crew (camera, air, tools, taglines, etc.)
- Monitor your air supply
- Provide timely reports to Command or Rescue Branch
- Develop and Communicate a Rescue Plan
- Consider relay rescue (call additional resources early)
- Consider alternative exit points
- Consider carry vs. drag techniques (obstructions, heat, visibility)
- Monitor your air supply
- Provide timely reports to Command or Rescue Branch

## RIC/Rescue Sector Functions

- Monitor tactical radio channel
- Retrieve RIC bag and thermal imaging camera (confirm equipment is in ready state)
- Conduct 360\* recon of structure if possible, report negative findings to Command
- Request additional resources
- Provide additional means of egress for roof operations or companies operating above the ground floor
- Remove security bars/devices
- Coordinate the opening of doors and windows

- Illuminate entrance and exits
- Confirm utilities are secure
- Develop and discuss the search plan
- Develop and discuss the rescue plan
- Notify Command RIC/Rescue Sector "Ready"

### **Initial Entry Team Operations**

- Execute the search plan
- Locate the fire crew/member
- Assess fire fighter and environment
- Transfill air and package fire fighter
- Monitor entry team air supply
- Provide reports to Command or Rescue Branch
- Prepare to extricate fire fighter

### **Back-up Entry Team Operations**

- RIC for entry team
- Communicate rescue plan
- Secure additional resources (as needed)
- Prepare for relay rescue
- Provide exterior support for initial entry team

### **Commitment to Rescue of a Lost or Trapped Fire Fighter**

Units should initially be deployed to locate injured or lost firefighters, and render aid and assistance to the member. The RIC Company(s) will then report their position and conditions to command for deployment of appropriate rescue resources to extricate the member if necessary.

### **High-rise Fires**

For high-rise fires, RIC's will be assigned to standby positions in the Resource Sector location, stairwell, or other appropriate location(s). A secondary standby location may be in the Lobby Sector location. RIC Company must take RIC bag, Thermal Imaging camera and appropriate tools to the Resource or Lobby Sector and standby.