

San Mateo County Fire Service POLICIES AND STANDARDS MANUAL

Title: Rapid Intervention Crew

Policy No. 2000-10

Adopted 10/03/00

Revised 02/12/06

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Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to provide additional safety for firefighters at emergency incidents by designating one or more companies as Rapid Intervention Crews (RIC's) to provide immediate rescue or other assistance.

Policy: It is the policy of the San Mateo County Fire Chiefs that incident commanders establish RIC's as needed or as required by this policy.

References:

- FIREScope
- NFPA 1500: Health and Safety Program, part 204.2.
- ICS – 910 Firefighter Incident Safety and Accountability Guidelines

Background: Incidents such as the fire in an abandoned cold storage facility in Worcester, Massachusetts where six firefighters lost their lives in December 1999 remind the fire service of the need for rapidly-deployable teams to affect an immediate rescue of trapped or missing firefighters. The "Rapid Intervention Crew" concept has been developed to meet this need for major or complex incidents.

Procedures:

1. The ICS identification term for the Rapid Intervention Crew in San Mateo County will be known as a **RIC**. Companies assigned to a RIC Group Supervisor will maintain their unit designators.
2. The factors that determine the degree to which Rapid Intervention Crews are formed and deployed are incident-driven. As the incident expands in size or complexity, the Incident Commander shall designate a RIC or multiple RICs and a RIC Group Supervisor.
3. At any incident up through a Full Assignment, if the incident warrants the RIC component to be filled, the IC can request a "RIC Response" through County Communications. A Structure Fire response will be dispatched which includes the RIC component.

When an assignment is initially dispatched as a Structure Fire a "RIC Response" will

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automatically be dispatched by County Communications.

Upon the declaration of a 2nd alarm, where the "RIC Response" has not been previously requested the "RIC Response" will be automatically assigned by CAD. The apparatus assigned to the RIC function will be designated during the dispatch.

The "RIC Response" shall consist of:

The response of the next due CAD identified RIC engine.

The assignment of an additional Tactical channel as a standby channel in the event of a RIC deployment. See #12 for further information.

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4. The 2nd due Battalion Chief on the Structure Fire 1st alarm should be assigned a position to best support the operations of the incident. It is recommended that if the incident allows he/she should be assigned to the RIC Group Supervisor function.

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5. If a RIC Group Supervisor has not been designated it will be assigned at the 2nd alarm level.

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6. When a Structure Fire or 2nd alarm is dispatched, which initiates a RIC Response, CAD will fill the suppression resources first and the RIC resources second.

7. Beyond the initial "RIC Response" every crew shall be capable of staffing a RIC assignment utilizing equipment from a RIC designated apparatus. Subsequent RIC assignments will be filled from existing crews and apparatus on scene or by requesting an additional alarm(s) for staffing.

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8. RIC should be located in proximity to the primary entry points of the structure.

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9. The RIC shall not be assigned to routine fire fighting activities.

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10. In high-rise incidents, the initial RIC should be located at staging to allow for RIC to be deployed in a timely manner.

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11. The RIC shall be maintained until the Incident Commander declares the situation under control and a safety survey of the structure is completed in conjunction with a non-IDLH atmosphere.

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12. When a RIC is established, the Incident Commander, RIC Group Supervisor, and Company Officers assigned to RIC shall consult the appropriate position specific checklist(s) (attached to this policy).

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13. When a RIC is deployed the IC shall move the incident operations over to the standby tactical channel that was assigned during the "RIC Response" dispatch. The person(s) being rescued and all RIC operations shall remain on the original tactical channel.

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The IC shall initiate a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) as soon as possible upon switching the operations to the new tactical channel.

The IC shall designate another RIC separate from the ongoing rescue to provide RIC coverage for the remaining operations. Another tactical channel shall be requested from county communications to be in "standby mode" should another RIC deployment occur separate from the initial deployment.

An immediate evaluation of current operations, their effectiveness, and the safety of personnel shall be conducted by the Command staff. Immediate and appropriate actions, if necessary, shall be taken to mitigate the risks associated with the incident.

14. In the event of a subsequent RIC deployment the IC shall move the incident operations to the next standby tactical channel and conduct another PAR for the incident.

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An immediate evaluation of current operations, their effectiveness, and the safety of personnel shall be conducted by the Command staff. Immediate and appropriate actions, if necessary, shall be taken to mitigate the risks associated with the incident.

15. Every rescue action will be investigated and a report sent to the Agency Fire Chief. This investigation will be the responsibility of the IC.

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