



# MABAS 3201

## Oakland County Fire Mutual Aid Association

### STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

SECTION: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

RAPID INTERVENTION

DATE ISSUED: June 21, 2017

REVISION DATE:

#### Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to establish procedures for when it becomes necessary to provide emergency assistance to a firefighter(s) that is/are lost, incapacitated or unable to remove him/her self from a life threatening situation while in an environment that is Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH).

#### Scope

This procedure will apply during emergency operations at mutual aid incidents, where "Command" has determined a need to establish a Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC), or an On-Deck Crew.

Understanding that all Departments within MABAS 3201 do not operate with the same staffing models, the policy allows for flexibility in application, while providing a guideline for improved communications and understanding of tactics while providing mutual aid. It is expected that departments that share a common border, and/or provide mutual aid on a regular basis, will train together to ensure a complete understanding of the AHJ's tactics used to rescue a firefighter in distress.

#### Definitions

##### 1. Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) / Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)

- a. For the purposes of this policy, RIC or RIT may be used interchangeably at the discretion of the host agency or AHJ, but will be referred to as RIC hence forth. The RIC will be three or more fire personnel who have been assigned the specific responsibility of assisting or rescuing a firefighter in distress.
  - i. NFPA 1710 and 1720 both ascribe the need to establish firefighter rescue teams but make a distinction between what to call the initial "two-in/two-out" team, Level 1 RIC, and a complete RIC known as Level 2:
    1. Level 1 RIC — two (2) members of the initial attack crew who are assigned for rapid deployment to rescue lost or trapped members.
    2. Level 2 RIC — a dedicated crew of 3 or more firefighters that is assigned for rapid deployment to rescue lost or trapped members.



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#### 2. Two In / Two Out

- a. This provision requires that at least two (2) employees (firefighters) enter the IDLH atmosphere and remain in visual or voice contact with each other at all times. It also requires that at least two employees be located outside the IDLH atmosphere, thus the term, "two in/two out". *This is not considered as a Rapid Intervention Crew and does not comply with the recommended standard. 2 In/2 Out must be expanded to a RIC during the formation of interior firefighting operations.*
- b. MI-OSHA states that once firefighters begin the interior attack on an interior structural fire, the atmosphere is assumed to be IDLH and paragraph 29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4)[two-in/two-out]applies.
- c. MI-OSHA defines interior structural firefighting as the physical activity of fire suppression, rescue or both inside of buildings or enclosed structures which are involved in a fire situation beyond the incipient stage.
- d. MI-OSHA further defines an incipient stage fire in 29 CFR 1910.155(c)(26) as a fire which is in the initial or beginning stage and which can be controlled or extinguished by portable fire extinguishers, Class II standpipe or small hose systems without the need for protective clothing or breathing apparatus. Any structural fire beyond incipient stage is considered to be an IDLH atmosphere by MI-OSHA

#### 3. On Deck Crew

- a. A crew of personnel that have been assigned to a specific area to prepare to relieve a crew that is actively engaged in fire ground operations. Under Blue Card training, this crew is also expected to serve as the RIC for any firefighter on the crew they will be relieving. The On Deck Crew will respond as directed by the IC, or the Division or Group Supervisor, if one is assigned.

***All departments are expected to train personnel to perform firefighter rescue operations if assigned the task as part of a RIC or an On Deck Crew.***



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#### Activation of RIC / On Deck Crew

1. Based on the AHJ's operations, the RIC or On Deck Crew may be established either by department policy, direction of the IC or automatically as a preassigned crew on a Box Alarm card.

##### **a. Incident Command Directed**

- i. The IC will direct arriving personnel to serve as dedicated RIC.

1. May be assigned by order of arrival on scene. Example – third due unit operates as RIC
2. Personnel will secure proper rescue equipment and will not be assigned to other sustained operations.

##### **b. On Deck Crew**

1. Personnel will be assigned to a division as the next crew in for interior operations. These personnel will also serve as the RIC for personnel assigned to the same division.
  - a. Designated firefighter rescue equipment will be assigned to each on deck area.

##### **c. Box Alarm Assignment**

- i. Some agencies have elected to assign a specific department or apparatus RIC responsibilities. The assigned department or apparatus will respond as dispatched to the appropriate alarm level. The dedicated RIC will check in with the IC or Staging Area Manager, if assigned, upon arrival.
- ii. Dispatch will follow proper Box Alarm Card activation procedures for dispatching the appropriate preassigned departments.
  1. Dispatch should notify the IC when the dedicated RIC is responding.



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#### Equipment

Personnel assigned to RIC or the On Deck Crew shall have immediate access to the following RIC equipment:

- a. RIC Air pack
- b. Thermal imaging camera
- c. Radio – each member
- d. Recue rope
- e. Tag lines
- f. Forcible entry tools
- g. Flashlights
- h. Saw

These tools will be staged either with the dedicated RIC or each On Deck Crew. The equipment shall be provided by the Hosting agency or the Arriving RIC, if so desired:

#### Training

1. Self- Rescue
  - a. Departments are responsible for ensuring ALL personnel are trained in self-rescue techniques:
    - i. Mitigating SCBA malfunctions

#### Training (Continued)

- ii. Crew integrity
- iii. Calling a Mayday
  1. LUNAR report



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2. Firefighter Rescue Techniques
  - a. Locating a downed firefighter
  - b. Packaging a firefighter for removal
  - c. Alternative removal techniques
  - d. RIC air supply operation
  - e. Utilization of all tools assigned to the RIC or On Deck Crew

#### Initial Actions

1. "Command" will be established by the first arriving fire department personnel.
2. The IC will determine the need for a RIC
  - a. Interior firefighting beyond incipient stage
  - b. IDLH environment
  - c. Rescues (non-fire)
  - d. Hazardous materials
3. The IC will establish the RIC operations as a specific crew of personnel or as the On Deck Crew. Personnel assigned to these duties will be advised of their assignment and responsibilities.

#### On-Going Support Activities

1. Personnel assigned to RIC responsibilities may be assigned other support activities as long as these are not sustained operations.

#### Mayday Event

1. Refer to the MABAS 3201 Mayday policy.