

# **Interboro Mutual Aid Group**

## **Operations Guideline**

**Subject: Rapid Intervention Crews (RIC's)**

**Effective Date: January 1, 2010**

**Review Date: July 2014**

**Purpose: This guideline is to aid and assist fire departments in complying with the regulatory requirements of NJAC 5:75-2.8 and to ensure that a rapid intervention crew/company (RIC) shall be designated to standby in a state of readiness should the need arise to initiate a rescue effort for downed or missing firefighters.**

**Scope: This guideline shall be utilized at all emergency incident.**

**Responsibility: This guideline shall apply to all members and all other emergency responders at the scene of a significant emergency regardless of their unit, agency or affiliation.**

### **Procedure:**

- (a) When circumstances dictate, the Incident Commander or his or her designee shall assure that a Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) is established. These circumstances shall include, but not be limited to:
  1. All working fires
  2. All extended operations (period of operation exceeds 30 minutes)
  3. All operations where the relative heat index (RHI) exceeds 90
- (b) An initial RIC shall be comprised of a minimum of two firefighters who are trained, attired and equipped to perform the actions necessary to facilitate the immediate rescue of other emergency workers. The RIC shall be expanded to a minimum of six firefighters within 10 minutes of the initial dispatch.
- (c) The RIC shall have awareness of where resources are committed on the incident.
- (d) To the extent possible, the RIC shall not be assigned to other duties that would in any way delay or impede their rescue effort. However, the RIC shall do the following:
  1. Communicate with the Incident Commander as soon as the RIC is established and advise their staging point.
  2. The RIC leader or supervisor shall meet with the Incident Commander to obtain the incident action plan and ascertain where firefighters are assigned and working within all IDLH areas such as the fire building.
  3. The RIC leader shall conduct a 360° scene survey to determine how to best assess scene conditions, deploy RIC resources if needed and to take necessary action steps to improve the readiness of the RIC such as placing of ground ladders for emergency egress by trapped firefighters, removal of bars and safety gates on windows, or creating building openings.

- (e) More than one RIC may be required for large scale or complex operations.
  - 1. A **rapid intervention** group supervisor shall be assigned to manage multiple RICs.
- (f) Fire departments shall assure that all members that will be assigned to serve on a RIC shall receive appropriate specialized training consistent with this assignment