

# Polson City/Rural FIRE DEPARTMENT Operating Guidelines

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## 304.00 Firefighter Assist Team (FAST) or other wise known as RIT Rapid Intervention Team Use

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### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this document is to establish policies and procedures for Fire Department personnel when functioning as a member of the Rapid Intervention Team according to the National Fire Protection Association (N.F.P.A.) 1500 standard.

### **Definitions:**

**Immediate Danger to Life and Health (IDLH) Atmosphere.** The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) defines an IDLH atmosphere for interior structure fires to be "an advanced fire that has spread inside of the building where high temperatures, heat and dense smoke" are present.

**Working Structural Fire.** Terminology used to identify any structure fire that meets the definition of an IDLH atmosphere.

**Initial Stages of an Incident.** Includes the period of an incident when tasks are being undertaken by the first arriving company with only one team assigned or operating in the IDLH atmosphere.

**Early Stages of an Incident.** Includes the period of an incident following the initial stages of an incident. This period of the incident is indicated by having more than one team operating within the IDLH atmosphere.

**Rapid Intervention Team (RIT).** A specifically designated rescue team at the scene of emergency incidents (beyond the initial stage of the operation) designed to provide personnel for the rescue of fire department members operating at emergency incidents if the need arises.

### **Policy:**

1. The Polson Volunteer Fire Department is implementing the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) concept as a standard practice for all appropriate emergency incidents having more than one team operating in the hazardous (IDLH) atmosphere.

2. Whenever there is more than one team operating or assigned to a hazardous (IDLH) atmosphere, the incident shall no longer be considered in the "initial stage," and at least one RIT

shall be required.

3. A RIT shall consist of at least two members and shall be readily available for rescue of a member or a team if the need arises. RIT's shall be fully equipped with the appropriate protective clothing, protective equipment, portable radio, SCBA and any specialized rescue equipment that might be needed given the specifics of the operation underway.

4. The composition and structure of RIT's shall be permitted to be flexible based on the type of incident and the size and complexity of operations. The incident commander shall evaluate the situation and the risks to operating teams, and shall provide one or more RIT's commensurate with the needs of the situation. The RIT shall be either:

(a) On-scene members designated and dedicated as RIT(s).

(b) On-scene company or companies either in a assigned area, or designated and dedicated as RIT(s).

**Procedure:**

1. When units are operating on the emergency scene with more than one team operating in the hazardous (IDLH) atmosphere, an RIT will be assigned by the Incident Commander (IC). Have 1 (one) Engine from Ronan Fire Department dispatched for RIT Team.

(a) If it becomes necessary for the incident commander to assign the RIT to another function such as: Move up for tactical assignment; Replacement of an operating crew; Civilian Rescue, then another unit must be immediately assigned as the RIT.

(b) RIT duties/functions can only be reassigned to another RIT in a similar manner as other assignments are transferred in the incident command system.

(c) Additional RIT(s) should be assigned as necessary, to maintain a safe working environment for personnel operating at the scene of large or complex emergency incidents.

(d) If the RIT is deployed for a rescue:

- An additional fire department and medic unit will automatically be dispatched by Lake County through IC.

- A replacement RIT will be immediately assigned.

- A rescue group will be established as necessary.

2. RIT Crews shall:

(a) Consist of on-scene personnel designated and dedicated as the RIT.

(b) Be in close proximity to the incident commander.

(c) Don full protective equipment or have it readily accessible including SCBA.

(d) Have the following equipment readily accessible:

- Portable Radio
- Tagline
- Halligan Tool and/or other appropriate forcible entry tools
- Pike Pole
- Highrise Hose Pack
- Handlight

(e) Size up the building for potential hazards and points of entry.

(f) Have special tools as indicated by size-up readily available.

(g) Be familiar with the other groups operating through a face to face meeting with the IC.