



**FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENTS  
OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA  
FIREFIGHTING AND  
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS  
MANUAL**

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**RAPID  
INTERVENTION  
TEAM COMMAND  
AND OPERATIONAL  
PROCEDURES**

*Fourth Edition*

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***Kyle Robert Wilson***  
***May 25, 1982 – April 16, 2007***

This revision of the *Rapid Intervention Team Command and Operational Procedures* manual is dedicated to the life and memory of Technician I Kyle Wilson, Tower 512, Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue. On April 16, 2007, Technician I Wilson made the ultimate sacrifice while performing a primary search at a house fire in Woodbridge, Virginia. Kyle's tragic death will never be forgotten and should serve as a constant reminder of the risk firefighters face in the line of duty. Firefighter safety and survival is of utmost importance, and the rapid intervention team represents a key component to enhance our members' safety and survival.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The *Rapid Intervention Team Command and Operational Procedures Manual, Fourth Edition* was developed through a cooperative effort from the following Northern Virginia fire departments:

- City of Alexandria
- Arlington County
- City of Fairfax
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- Fort Belvoir
- Fort Myer
- Loudoun County
- City of Manassas
- City of Manassas Park
- Marine Corps Base Quantico
- Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
- Prince William County
- Stafford County

The Northern Virginia Fire Operations Board managed the development of the manual's first and second editions in 2002 and 2008. In 2013, the Northern Virginia Fire Operations Board coordinated with a group of subject-matter experts to publish the manual's third edition. The Northern Virginia Fire Operations Board oversaw production of this fourth edition with content developed by the Technical Writing Group.

## PREFACE

Firefighting is an inherently dangerous profession that annually results in the loss of firefighters' lives. Retired Chief Vincent Dunn from the Fire Department of New York accurately described the fire service's responsibility to reflect upon line of duty deaths (LODDs) when he observed, "We must learn from those who have gone before us. We can pay tribute to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice by studying what went wrong and correcting the chain of events in the future."

The fire service has always taken action to rescue injured or trapped firefighters. Firefighters developed the theory and proactive concept of rapid intervention teams (RITs) to protect and rescue distressed firefighters within [immediately dangerous to life or health \(IDLH\) environments](#). Over time, the fire service established and improved upon RIT operations in hopes that standardized practices and operations would reduce LODDs.

In accordance with the Northern Virginia Fire Operations Board's policy to review operational manuals every 3 years, the Technical Writing Group reviewed and revised the previous RIT manual to further enhance distressed firefighters' survivability in IDLH environments. The procedures outlined in this manual were informed by research of incidents involving firefighter fatalities and near-misses. In the region and across the country, after-action reports often identify similar challenges and tactical mistakes associated with Mayday events.

The significance of effective and disciplined radio communication during Mayday events cannot be overstated. Communication issues often emerge as major factors negatively affecting rescue operations. Within our own region, communication challenges have contributed to incidents involving near-misses and LODDs. It is not uncommon for firefighters' Mayday radio transmissions to be missed because of auditory exclusion resulting from fireground stress. Fireground stress affects all those functioning in an operational capacity; consequently, incident commanders focused on deteriorating incident conditions often miss initial calls for help.

This manual emphasizes the importance of maintaining suppression efforts and improving communications during Mayday events. However, this group aimed to develop a manual that would apply to any incident type requiring operations within an IDLH environment. RIT and Mayday procedures are described from firefighter and command officer perspectives to enhance all personnel's operational efficiency. Firefighters must remain proficient in this manual's subject matter, radio operations, and the use of department-issued equipment for firefighter rescue.

This manual provides detailed recommendations for Mayday events and RIT operations. A few essential concepts must be emphasized:

- Company officers must complete an incident size-up and develop an action plan that prioritizes civilian and firefighter safety. This does not preclude all personnel from performing on-going size-ups as an incident progresses.
- All crew members must take responsibility for accountability.
- Firefighters must always be prepared to self-rescue or assist with their own rescue.

- The negative stigma associated with Mayday declarations in the fire service must be eliminated. Firefighters should never delay a call for help.
- Officers should recognize that rescue efforts associated with Mayday events require a significant number of resources and personnel.
- A positive and proactive attitude from RIT personnel will prepare RIT crews for the potential seriousness of a Mayday event.

The following key changes were made in this fourth edition of the *Rapid Intervention Team Command and Operational Procedures* manual.

### **Mayday Procedures**

- Procedure for communicating a Mayday was altered.
- “Command acknowledge” was removed from the initial Mayday call. It was also removed from subsequent reports when the incident commander has acknowledged the Mayday.
- Inclusion of example for calling a Mayday when it is witnessed by another member.

### **RIT Resource Response Changes**

- RIT Level 1, RIT Level 2, and RIT Level 3 responses were removed.
- Rapid intervention task force response replaces RIT levels as a single RIT response regardless of occupancy or building type.

### **Firefighter/Officers/Unit Responsibilities Operating on the Incident Scene**

Section removed.

### **Emergency Communications Center Responsibilities**

Section removed.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The procedures outlined in this manual apply to all fire and rescue department operations requiring personnel to enter IDLH environments. Although the procedures focus primarily on structural fire incidents, they apply to any incident or training event requiring firefighters to operate within an IDLH environment.

Firefighters without air have a narrow window of survivability, so individual firefighters must not delay reporting to Command if they become lost, trapped, or otherwise in need of assistance. Personnel also must not delay reporting to Command if they cannot account for members of their crew. Command must always assume that a missing firefighter needs assistance until their location and status can be confirmed.

Firefighters should possess a detailed knowledge of their equipment and understand the limitations of each part of their protective ensemble. Mastering breathing apparatus operation and related emergency procedures could mean the difference between life and death.

## GLOSSARY

The following key terms and definitions were used in this manual:

- *Command officer of appropriate level* – This term refers to command officers identified by the individual jurisdictions who are qualified to fill specific command positions.
- *Emergency activation button* – A common feature on all NOVA mobile and portable radios. The basic use of this button is to alert the dispatcher to a situation in which operational/field personnel feel they are in a life-threatening situation.
- *Emergency traffic* – This term is used to request clear airtime to transmit information related to an emergency condition other than a Mayday.
- *Immediately dangerous to life or health* – This term describes environments likely to cause immediate or delayed permanent adverse health effects or death.
- *Initial rapid intervention team* – An initial rapid intervention team is a single resource assigned after an initial alarm to achieve rapid intervention team capability for an emergency event. I-RIT resources require a minimum of three personnel; however, four personnel staffing is recommended and preferred.
- *LUNAR* – LUNAR is an acronym used to help personnel remember the information they must relay or gather during a Mayday event. LUNAR stands for location, unit, name, assignment, and resources or help needed.
- *Personal accountability report check* – This is a Command-initiated accounting for all personnel on an incident scene. The *Command Officers Manual* contains the policies and procedures for this check.
- *Rapid intervention task force* – The rapid intervention task force consists of one engine company, one special service unit (i.e., truck, tower, or rescue), one battalion chief or command officer of appropriate level, and one advanced life support transport.

## ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations and acronyms were used in this manual:

- IC – incident commander
- IDLH – immediately dangerous to life or health
- I-RIT – initial rapid intervention team
- LODD – line of duty death
- LUNAR – location, unit, name, assignment, and resources

- PAR – personnel accountability report
- PASS – personal alert safety system
- Recon – reconnaissance
- RIT – rapid intervention team
- SCBA – self-contained breathing apparatus

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## MAYDAY PROCEDURES

The term *Mayday* is used to report IDLH environments in which firefighters experience distress or require assistance.

### When Do You Report a Mayday?

According to the [National Fire Protection Association 1407](#) standard, a firefighter operating in an IDLH environment should call a Mayday in situations including but not limited to the following:

- entangled, trapped, or stuck without the ability to self-extricate;
- fallen through a roof or floor to a lower level;
- exposed to a rapid-fire event;
- disoriented in zero visibility;
- contained behind an exit blocked by fire or collapse and unable to locate a secondary exit;
- experiencing a low-air alarm far from an exit door or window;
- experiencing a self-contained breathing apparatus emergency;
- requiring use of an emergency breathing safety system;
- unable to locate an exit door or window; or
- experiencing a medical emergency.

If personnel witness or otherwise becomes aware of another firefighter experiencing a Mayday situation, they should call a Mayday. If individuals at the command post witness similar circumstances, Command should initiate a Mayday.

### How to Call a Mayday

To call a Mayday, the firefighter or Command should engage the emergency activation button on their portable radio, if possible.

Mayday transmissions should include the following information:

- “Mayday, Mayday, Mayday,”
- the unit number and riding position of the member making the transmission,
- the name of the member experiencing the Mayday (if available),
- the Mayday firefighter’s location, and
- the nature of the Mayday.

Mayday transmissions for individual firefighters in distress or requiring assistance and for firefighters who witness other firefighters in distress or requiring assistance should be communicated in the following manner:

Individual firefighter:

“Mayday, Mayday, Mayday, Engine 425 left bucket. This is firefighter Smith. I am in the first-

floor storeroom in the Bravo quadrant. I have a collapsed wall on top of me.”

Firefighters who witness other firefighters in distress:

“Mayday, Mayday, Mayday, Engine 425 officer. We have had a collapse of the first-floor, and Truck 425’s crew has fallen into the basement in the Bravo quadrant. Engine 425’s crew is PAR.”

Command should acknowledge the Mayday and confirm or capture the following information:

- rank/position and name (e.g., “Firefighter Smith, Engine 425 left bucket”),
- location (e.g., “You are on the first floor, Bravo quadrant, in the storeroom.”), and
- nature of the Mayday (e.g., “You are trapped under a wall.”).

In the event Command has not been established, the responding first due battalion chief should acknowledge the Mayday. If Command or the responding first due battalion chief has not acknowledged the Mayday, the dispatch center should acknowledge it and relay associated information as appropriate.

If Command has not acknowledged the Mayday, the firefighter initiating the Mayday should repeat the initial Mayday transmission and ask Command to acknowledge the transmission. After the Mayday transmission has been completed and acknowledged, the distressed firefighter should manually activate their PASS device to create an audible and visual beacon to assist crews searching for their location.

### **Who is Most Likely to Rescue a Mayday Firefighter?**

Data from [Project Mayday](#) indicated that excluding self-rescue, crews already deployed within a structure accomplish most successful rescues. Mayday firefighters are most likely to be rescued in this order:

- self-rescue: able to rectify the situation or escape on their own,
- crew rescue: rescued by other members or their unit or crew,
- adjacent crew: rescued by another crew operating in the area,
- interior crew: rescued by another crew operating inside the structure, and
- rapid intervention team (RIT): rescued by the RIT.

As indicated, the greater the proximity of firefighters operating in full personal protective equipment to the Mayday firefighter’s location, the higher the likelihood those firefighters will successfully mitigate the Mayday event. Consequently, accountability of units operating within an IDLH environment is of utmost importance. Command must maintain accurate location information for interior units to deploy the most appropriate resources for a Mayday event. This may result in assigning the rescue and removal of a Mayday firefighter to units other than those designated for RIT.

## COMMAND PROCEDURES

### Initial Actions After identifying an IDLH Environment

The potential for incident operations within an IDLH environment indicates the need to establish initial RIT (I-RIT) capabilities. The fourth due engine company typically fulfills this function; however, incident commanders (ICs) may choose to assign I-RIT responsibilities to an alternative unit based on incident dynamics. The assignment of I-RIT responsibilities to a responding unit does not alleviate required compliance with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration's "two-in/two-out" policy as defined in Respiratory Protection Standard [29 CFR 1910.134](#).

ICs should consider increasing I-RIT capabilities by requesting a rapid intervention task force (RITF) response as soon as tactics require operations within an IDLH environment. If personnel begin operating within an IDLH environment and the initial IC does not request an RITF response, the first due battalion chief should consider requesting the RITF. Officers may proactively request an RITF response. The consideration of a RITF response should take into account the nature of the IDLH (i.e., "*food on the stove with no extension*" versus a "*working basement fire*").

### Initial Actions Upon Receiving a Mayday Call

Upon transmission of a Mayday call, ICs must acknowledge the Mayday and consider the following actions:

- Confirm pertinent information from Mayday firefighter (i.e., LUNAR: location, unit, name, assignment, and resources).
- Immediately deploy appropriate resources to the location of the Mayday firefighter.
- Transmit a general announcement on the tactical channel.
- Maintain or enhance fire attack.
- Limit radio transmissions to emergency traffic only.
- Order units to maintain their current tactical assignments.
- Request PAR from the Mayday firefighter's crew.
- Contact units operating in the Mayday firefighter's area to verify their status and availability to help mitigate the Mayday.

Upon the Mayday declaration, ICs should limit all radio transmission to emergency traffic only. This communication restriction should continue until Command releases the channel to routine traffic. All personnel should operate with a radio discipline mindset, transmitting only pertinent time-sensitive information. Access to free radio airtime facilitates mitigation efforts during a Mayday event.

After Mayday acknowledgment and confirmation of transmitted information, Command must take immediate actions to mitigate the event.

Each Mayday event culminates from multiple factors that contribute to unique and high-stress situations. Throughout the fire service, Mayday events have consistently demonstrated that

complex rescue operations require a significant number of resources and personnel. As identified in the [Phoenix Fire Department's study](#) on this topic, it takes approximately 12

firefighters to rescue one firefighter in distress, and one in five members participating in the rescue will experience their own emergency.

A distinction should be made between rescue operations requiring a significant number of resources and those mitigated by self-rescue or units operating near the distressed firefighter. The former represents a much lower percentage of overall Mayday events but includes some of the most challenging and time-consuming fireground operations. The latter represents most Mayday events.

Command must listen to the nature of a Mayday call because a distressed firefighter's needs can vary greatly. The most efficient tactic may be to reassign interior units to assist a Mayday firefighter. All personnel on the incident scene should maintain situational awareness, assignment discipline, and the ability to dynamically redeploy.

The circumstances causing a Mayday and the Mayday firefighter's current environment should drive tactics selected to mitigate each Mayday event. For example, the survival and rescue of a firefighter who has fallen through a floor into an area of uncontrolled fire will depend on the deployment and operation of hose lines to a much greater degree than the application and use of an RIT air supply.

Incident-critical operations cannot be abandoned; units operationally engaged in the IDLH environment must maintain assignment discipline. The importance of fire attack and extinguishment during structure fire events cannot be overemphasized. Unit members must maintain and complete these assignments despite the emotional draw associated with Mayday events.

All Mayday events are unique and should not be treated in a prescribed or standardized manner. A PAR check of all operationally engaged units may be necessary after a catastrophic building collapse; however, a unit specific PAR check may be sufficient when a single firefighter calls a Mayday after becoming lost in a structure. Command should consider that PAR checks take several minutes to complete. Radio airtime dedicated to PAR check transmissions could prevent a Mayday firefighter from communicating critical information about their situation and needs.

### **Additional Mayday Event Actions**

After taking primary mitigating actions, initial ICs and command officers should consider the following actions:

- Maintain and enhance RIT function.
- Replace deployed RIT units.
- Confirm RITF response.
- Assess RIT capabilities and needs.
- Request additional resources.
- Assign an arriving battalion chief or other command officer to establish a RIT group.

- Utilize additional radio channels.
- Revise the incident action plan, prioritizing search-and-rescue.
- Develop a rescue action plan.
- Withdraw and control unassigned resources.
- Restrict unassigned resources from entering the search-and-rescue area.
- Ensure emergency medical services resources are available and ready to receive injured personnel.
- Initiate a PAR check to account for all personnel operating in the IDLH environment.

Requests for additional RITF responses and additional alarm assignments should be made as soon as initial and subsequent assessments indicate the need for additional resources. Second-alarm requests do not include RITF resources. If Command requests a second alarm prior to an RITF, they must request the RITF in addition to the second alarm. It is also important for the IC to identify to the controlling dispatch center in what order they want the units dispatched (i.e., *“Battalion 601 to Loudoun, dispatch a RIT Task Force and a second alarm in that order”*).

Previous editions of this manual established levels of RIT responses to augment the RIT group capabilities and bring specialized structural collapse resources to an incident scene. With the transition to a single RITF response, if an incident requires specialized structural collapse resources, ICs should specifically request those resources in addition to initial or subsequent RITF requests.

### **Command-Initiated RIT Deployment Without Mayday**

Command should deploy an RIT without a Mayday transmission when deemed necessary. Situations in which Command should deploy an RIT include but are not limited to the following:

- unit or resource unaccounted for after completion of a PAR check,
- structural collapse with entrapment, and
- observation of units or personnel in distress.

## **RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES**

### **I-RIT**

An I-RIT is a single resource from the initial alarm response that establishes RIT capabilities on the incident scene. I-RIT resources require a minimum of three personnel; however, four personnel staffing is recommended and preferred. NOVA emergency operation manuals indicate which units to utilize when establishing the I-RIT. The fourth due engine company typically fulfills this function; however, initial ICs and the command officer may choose to assign I-RIT responsibilities to an alternative unit based on incident dynamics. The potential for incident operations within an IDLH environment indicates the need to consider establishing I-RIT capabilities.

## I-RIT Planning

The primary function of the I-RIT is to improve firefighter safety in an IDLH environment. Upon arrival, the I-RIT officer should perform the following actions:

- Communicate establishment of I-RIT.
- Report to the command post and confer with Command if practical given the incident's geographic size and the command post's location.
- Perform a reconnaissance lap of the structure.
  - Assess emergency conditions and forecast potential rescue challenges.
  - Determine all exterior access points into the building.
  - Identify and assess ground ladder placement.
  - Determine the most rapid access to units operating in an IDLH environment and assess forcible entry requirements.
  - Assess building construction features.
  - Confirm and begin tracking units operating in the IDLH environment and locate the seat of the fire (if applicable).
  - Retrieve and review building preplans (if available).
- Provide an updated situation report based on observations from the reconnaissance lap.

The I-RIT unit should take a strategic position based upon incident dynamics, the type of structure involved, and the status and extent of fire involvement. The I-RIT unit should consider staging I-RIT personnel and equipment in more than one location according to building size, event complexity, fire location, and accessibility of units operating in the IDLH area. The I-RIT unit should monitor both the incident's tactical and safety radio channels.

The I-RIT tool cache should minimally consist of the following items:

- hose line (e.g., hose bundles, high-rise packs),
- hand-lights,
- portable radios,
- forcible entry hand tools,
- tagline or search rope,
- RIT air supply or additional self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) if an RIT air supply is not compatible or available,
- thermal imaging cameras,
- SCBA pack trackers (if available), and
- emergency medical services equipment.

*Note.* The RIT air supply location should be identified on all front-line apparatus by the RIT air supply sticker (see Appendix A).

## Proactive RIT Tasks

The I-RIT unit should take proactive measures while preparing and planning for rapid and effective deployment. During the reconnaissance lap and size-up, the I-RIT officer should note the status of primary fireground tasks and confirm completion to Command. Radio traffic should be kept to a minimum. If primary fireground tasks are not accomplished, the I-RIT unit should ensure completion of the following tasks:

- Placing ground ladders in strategic positions to support firefighter egress.
- Placing lighting at strategic building entry points to illuminate points of egress.
- Establishing exterior access into the building.
  - Checking exterior doors and accomplishing forcible entry in the operational area to improve egress opportunities.
  - Closing exterior doors to control flow-paths and maintain coordinated ventilation operations.
- Removing window obstructions in the operational area (e.g., bars, security screens, casement window frames). These tasks may require additional resources.
- Controlling building utilities.

## RITF

A RITF response consists of one engine company, one special service unit (e.g., truck, tower, or rescue), one battalion chief or command officer of appropriate level, and one advanced life support transport.

RITF resources ensure safe staffing levels in the RIT assignment. In the NOVA region, less than four personnel sometimes staff the I-RIT. This typically occurs when an I-RIT-assigned engine company driver is committed to water supply operations. RITF resources will augment I-RIT staffing and increase the safety margin. Although RITF resource use typically occurs during structure fire events, these resources may be requested and utilized during any incident to enhance RIT resources.

## RITF and RIT Group Actions

Upon arrival, RITF units report to the I-RIT. The I-RIT officer becomes the RIT group supervisor and should communicate that an RIT group has been established. When the battalion chief or command officer assigned to the RITF arrives, they should assume the RIT group supervisor role unless otherwise assigned by Command. Upon establishment of the RIT group supervisor, I-RIT and RITF units are referred to collectively as the RIT group.

Subsequently dispatched units responding to or assigned to the RIT group should report to and directly communicate with the RIT group supervisor.

The RIT group focuses on firefighter safety and rescue and operates within the incident command system in a manner consistent with other designated functional groups. The RIT group supervisor should assess the RIT group's capabilities, request additional resources as needed through Command, and account for assigned resources utilizing the RIT Group Supervisor

Command Board (see Appendix B). The RIT group should inform Command of any observed, anticipated, or potentially dangerous incident dynamics such as structural degradation, collapse potential, rapid-fire growth, or heavily fortified means of egress.

The RIT group should develop and implement a rescue action plan that includes placing protective hose lines and coordinated ventilation in areas where firefighters could become trapped. Planning should incorporate primary and alternative actions to account for incident dynamics and anticipated challenges (see Appendix C). If access through existing exterior openings becomes blocked, alternative plans to achieve access should be developed (e.g., wall breaching, remote access via ground ladder, window cut down).

RIT group resources can be utilized to do the following:

- Ensure I-RIT tasks have been completed.
- Deploy protective hose lines to support rescue activities.
- Establish RIT reconnaissance (recon) teams.
- Establish RIT rescue teams.
- Establish RIT relief crews.
- Establish RIT support crews.
- Establish patient care and transport crews.
- Expand the RIT tool cache as needed to include power saws, additional air cylinders, available and compatible RIT packs, packaging devices, and additional tagline and search ropes.

## **RIT TACTICAL ASSIGNMENTS**

The RIT group's responsibilities can be organized and assigned using a tiered approach (i.e., RIT recon, RIT rescue, RIT relief, and RIT support). Command, the RIT group supervisor, and officers assigned to the RIT group must understand when to deploy each tactical assignment individually or collectively.

### **RIT Recon**

RIT recon is a tactical assignment that includes searching for and communicating information related to the location, status, and rescue needs of a Mayday firefighter. Recon is not always completed by units assigned to the RIT group because availability and proximity to a Mayday firefighter's last known location determine which units perform recon. If units other than those assigned to the RIT group perform recon, the RIT group should closely monitor radio communications and be prepared to respond.

Officers assigned to RIT recon should remain cognizant of their crew's travel path and relative location within a structure during search operations. This information should be incorporated into an ongoing size-up that identifies firefighter removal challenges as the search is performed.

When RIT recon locates a Mayday firefighter, the unit should determine if removing the firefighter from the IDLH environment requires additional resources. RIT recon should quickly assess the downed firefighter's health status and, if needed, begin packaging the firefighter for

removal. If RIT recon cannot remove the downed firefighter from the structure, the unit should consider moving the firefighter to an interior haven to await additional resources.

After locating a Mayday firefighter, RIT recon should report the following information to the RIT group supervisor:

- location of Mayday firefighter,
- status of Mayday firefighter (e.g., ambulatory, conscious),
- best access to rescue area,
- RIT recon crew's disposition, and
- additional resources needed.

The RIT group supervisor must incorporate this information into the rescue action plan. Initially, the RIT group supervisor should ensure that RIT recon and the downed firefighter have an adequate air supply and, if needed, a protective hose line. If rescue requires resources outside of those assigned to the RIT group, the RIT group supervisor should request those resources through Command.

## **RIT Rescue**

RIT rescue is a tactical assignment focused on removing a downed firefighter. RIT group supervisors should organize RIT personnel into RIT rescue teams with a minimum composition of two personnel. RIT rescue teams should closely monitor radio communications from RIT recon and equip themselves with situation-specific tools and equipment. After receiving information from RIT recon, the RIT group supervisor should deploy RIT rescue to the location of the downed firefighter in accordance with the RIT group's rescue action plan and in the most efficient and expedient manner possible. If RIT rescue requires additional resources to remove the downed firefighter, they should notify the RIT group supervisor.

Personnel assigned to RIT rescue should remember that each Mayday event is unique. Incident dynamics and situational factors will inform the most appropriate rescue tactics. These factors include but are not limited to the following:

- time,
- weather,
- location within the structure,
- construction type,
- complexity of entrapment,
- nature of injuries,
- air consumption degree and rate,
- extent of fire spread, and
- status of extinguishment operations.

## **RIT Relief**

RIT Relief is an anticipatory assignment used to ensure availability of adequate relief crews to support the rescue action plan. When determining personnel needs for RIT relief, the RIT group supervisor should consider the incident status and the rescue action plan's complexity. The RIT group supervisor should notify Command if RIT relief requires additional personnel. Command should reassign crews or request additional resources as soon as possible to support this function.

## **RIT Support**

RIT support is a tactical assignment focused on ancillary tasks directly related to RIT recon and RIT rescue accomplishments. The RIT group supervisor should assign adequate resources to RIT support to facilitate the following tasks:

- Placing ground ladders in strategic positions to support firefighter egress.
- Placing lighting at strategic building entry points to illuminate points of egress.
- Establishing interior access.
  - Checking exterior doors and accomplishing forcible entry in the operational area to improve egress opportunities.
  - Closing exterior doors to control flow-paths and maintain coordinated ventilation operations.
- Removing window obstructions in the operational area (e.g., bars, security screens, casement window frames). These tasks may require additional resources.
- Controlling building utilities.
- Performing ongoing incident evaluations.
- Identifying or creating alternative egress routes for firefighter removal.

## APPENDIX A: RIT AIR SUPPLY REGIONAL IDENTIFICATION STICKER

The following is an example of the sticker to be placed on all NOVA region front-line apparatus that carry an RIT air supply. The specific requirements for this sticker include the following:

- reflective material,
- green as the primary color,
- “RIT” in bold lettering, and
- minimum size of 3.5” X 3.5.”



Figure A1. RIT regional identification sticker

## **APPENDIX B: RIT GROUP COMMAND BOARD/CHECK LISTS**

- [RIT Group Supervisor Command Board](#)

## APPENDIX C: LOST OR TRAPPED FIREFIGHTER CHECKLIST

<b>Initial Actions Upon Receiving a Mayday Call</b>	
	Acknowledge Mayday
	Confirm information from Mayday firefighter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Location</li> <li>▪ Unit</li> <li>▪ Name of Mayday firefighter</li> <li>▪ Nature of emergency</li> <li>▪ Air status</li> <li>▪ Resources needed</li> </ul>
	Deploy appropriate/needed resources to location of Mayday firefighter
	Maintain/enhance fire attack
	General announcement on tactical channel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mayday has occurred</li> <li>▪ RIT has deployed</li> <li>▪ Name and location of mayday firefighter</li> <li>▪ Transmit only emergency radio traffic</li> <li>▪ All units maintain current assignments</li> </ul>
	Request PAR from Mayday firefighter's crew
	Contact units in Mayday area to verify status and availability to assist.
<b>Additional Mayday Event Actions</b>	
	Maintain/enhance RIT function: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Replace deployed RIT units.</li> <li>▪ Confirm RITF response.</li> <li>▪ Assess RIT capabilities/needs—Request additional resources.</li> <li>▪ Establish RIT group.</li> </ul>
	Utilization of additional radio channels
	Revise incident action plan with high priority given to search-and-rescue
	Withdraw and control unassigned resources
	Ensure EMS resources are available and ready to receive injured personnel.
	Initiate a PAR check to confirm accountability of all personnel operating in the IDLH.

*Note.* RIT = rapid intervention team; RITF = rapid intervention task force; EMS = emergency medical services; PAR = personal accountability report; IDLH = immediately dangerous to life or health.