

# San Mateo County Fire Service POLICIES AND STANDARDS MANUAL

## Title: **RAPID INTERVENTION CREW**

Policy No. 2000-10

Adopted 10/03/00

Revised 07/11/05

- 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 automatically be dispatched by County Communications.

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Upon the declaration of a 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

4. The 2<sup>nd</sup> due Battalion Chief due on the Structure Fire 1<sup>st</sup> alarm should be assigned a position that best supports the operations of the incident. It is recommended that if the incident allows, the 2<sup>nd</sup> due Battalion Chief should be assigned to the RIC Group Supervisor function.
5. If a RIC Group Supervisor has not been designated it will be assigned at the 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm level.
6. When a Structure Fire or 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.
8. RIC should be located in proximity to the primary entry points of the structure.
9. The RIC shall not be assigned to routine fire fighting activities.
10. In high-rise incidents, the initial RIC is to be located at staging to allow for RIC to be deployed in a timely manner.
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).
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.

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.

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.

# **San Mateo County Rapid Intervention Crew Forms**

## **Formatting Guidelines**

1. **IC/OPERATIONS SECTION CHIEF RIC Worksheet** – This worksheet should be printed with the “Critical Fireground Factors” printed on the back side of the document.
2. **RIC GROUP SUPERVISOR RIC Worksheet** - This worksheet should be printed with the “Critical Fireground Factors” printed on the back side of the document.
3. **RIC BRANCH DIRECTOR WORKSHEET** - This worksheet should be printed with the “Critical Fireground Factors” printed on the back side of the document.
4. **RIC GROUP SUPERVISOR** – This form should be printed on both sides of the page to provide for RIC air management tracking of long term deployments.

## INCIDENT CLOCK

- |                                     |                                      |                                      |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 MINUTES | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 MINUTES  | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 MINUTES  | <input type="checkbox"/> 40 MINUTES  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 50 MINUTES | <input type="checkbox"/> 60 MINUTES  | <input type="checkbox"/> 70 MINUTES  | <input type="checkbox"/> 80 MINUTES  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 90 MINUTES | <input type="checkbox"/> 100 MINUTES | <input type="checkbox"/> 110 MINUTES | <input type="checkbox"/> 120 MINUTES |

*San Mateo County*

## IC/OPERATIONS SECTION CHIEF RIC Worksheet

RIC/INITIAL TAC CHANNEL \_\_\_\_\_ STANDBY TAC CHANNEL \_\_\_\_\_ COMMAND CHANNEL \_\_\_\_\_

### PRE-DEPLOYMENT

- Start 10-minute clock with dispatch/IDT if not already running.
- Assign RIC Company.
- Assign RIC Group Supervisor.
- Assign Safety Officer.
- Ensure Breathing Support on scene.
- Confirm additional TAC channel.
- When RIC established, Out Team transitions to accountability only.

### DEPLOYMENT

- Request EMERGENCY TRAFFIC/ Stop unnecessary radio traffic.
- Identify EMERGENCY TRAFFIC initiator (name, company, problem, and location).
- Instruct personnel to stay calm, activate PASS, and take measures to increase survivability.
- Deploy available resources (Out Team, RIC, companies in immediate area).
- RIC to TAC channel of downed firefighter.
- Assign fireground operations to assigned standby TAC channel.
- Request additional Alarm(s).
- Establish another RIC for the incident/request another standby TAC channel
- Assign additional companies to RIC Group per needs.
- Obtain PAR on all crews.

- Establish Medical Group. Activate transport and consider MCI activation.
- Evaluate current mode of operation (offensive/defensive, etc.) Change if needed.
- Expand Command Organization appropriately (if needed).
- Determine Technical Rescue requirements.
- Assess structural stability continuously.
- Reinforce firefighting positions. Consider large hand lines (2 1/2").
- Establish/Expand Rehab Group.
- Ventilate and maintain tenability.

### POST DEPLOYMENT

- Notify Host agency Fire Chief of RIC Deployment.
- Develop Relief schedule for all affected crews.
  - Establish Welfare Officer
    - FD representative to each hospital
    - FD representative to members home
    - Consider transportation for families
- Assign Chief Officer to develop CISM resources
- Secure and bag rescued members PPE (including SCBA, etc)
- Request Fire Investigators
- Notify Department Chaplain (if appropriate)
- Continue structural evaluation
- Establish/Ensure PIO Assignment

**INCIDENT CLOCK**

- |                                     |                                      |                                      |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 MINUTES | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 MINUTES  | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 MINUTES  | <input type="checkbox"/> 40 MINUTES  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 50 MINUTES | <input type="checkbox"/> 60 MINUTES  | <input type="checkbox"/> 70 MINUTES  | <input type="checkbox"/> 80 MINUTES  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 90 MINUTES | <input type="checkbox"/> 100 MINUTES | <input type="checkbox"/> 110 MINUTES | <input type="checkbox"/> 120 MINUTES |

*San Mateo County*  
**RIC GROUP SUPERVISOR**  
**RIC Worksheet**

RIC/INITIAL TAC CHANNEL \_\_\_\_\_ STANDBY TAC CHANNEL \_\_\_\_\_ COMMAND CHANNEL \_\_\_\_\_

**PRE-DEPLOYMENT**

- Assemble crew(s) and brief on incident details.
- Stage RIC tools and equipment on tarp. Additional tools and equipment as deemed necessary based on the incident.
- Notify I.C. (C.A.N. report) RIC Group "Ready"
- Prepare Air Management Worksheet
- Recon the incident scene (apparatus placement, points of entry, alternate doors and windows)
- Consider multiple staging / deployment points for large buildings
- Provide additional means of egress for roof operations or companies operating above the ground floor.
- Remove security bars/devices
- Coordinate the opening of doors and windows
- Confirm status of utilities
- Request additional personnel if needed.
- Consider critical fire ground factors (risk analysis/see back of form).

**DEPLOYMENT**

- Start air management of RIC Crew(s)
- Consider air management of victim (elapsed time)
- Consider the point of entry for crew/member in trouble.
- Consider the last known location of crew/member in trouble
- Establish additional RIC's for relay rescue
- Consider additional suppression support for RIC crew deployment
- Monitor air supply.
- Consider firefighter fatigue
- Consider alternative exit points
- Provide timely reports (C.A.N.) and PAR's to direct supervisor or Incident Commander
- Communicate the rescue plan
- Communicate the search plan



# Critical Fireground Factors

## Risk Management Philosophy

*We will initiate every response under the assumption there are lives and property to save.*

*We will risk our lives a lot, in a calculated manner, to save savable lives.*

*We will risk our lives a little, in a calculated manner, to save property.*

*We will not risk our lives at all, for what is already lost.*

*Early recognition of these factors will help reduce the possibility of a Firefighter Injury or Entrapment on the Fireground.*

- Active working Fire, and entry time will be delayed, or there is a loss of “time recognition” by crews or the IC.
- Multiple Companies have been assigned to enter through one entry point.
- Roof Division Companies are being driven off the roof as crews are preparing to go inside.
- Air is being drawn in rapidly in zero visibility and heat is banking down.
- Interior Crews can hear the fire burning above them, but they can't see it.
- Interior Crews are working underneath a mezzanine.
- Crews feel “uncomfortable” with the situation they are in.
- A Crews SCBA low air alarm activates, and they are still searching for the seat of the fire.
- Interior Crews flow water for several minutes and make no progress on the fire.
- Interior Crews hear the sound of roof ventilation operations being conducted behind them.
- Crews are unable to communicate with the Incident Command or Division / Group Supervisors.
- A Crew or crewmember is in trouble, and fails to recognize it. A call for Emergency Traffic is delayed or not initiated.
- Crews are deep inside a Commercial Building with 1 ¾” lines rather than 2 ½” lines.
- Prior to building entry, Fireground Companies and the IC fail to recognize basic construction features that should influence decision making and actions.
- Crews and Commanders are not following the “order model” for communications, or are using terms that are unclear and send mixed messages.
- Company Officers are not monitoring the air supply status of their crews, and are not practicing proper air management techniques.
- All members operating on the Fireground fail to evaluate and apply the “Risk Management Philosophy” to their assignment.



**Firefighter Assigned** \_\_\_\_\_

*San Mateo County*  
**RIC GROUP SUPERVISOR**

**Reported Location** \_\_\_\_\_

**Air Management**

This form intended for one missing or trapped firefighter.

R.I.C. COMPANY	TIMES		TIMES	PAR REQUEST / UPDATES PAR – KNOTS – AIR	PAC/CAN* (Firefighter Found) Knots/Location
	IN	TURN AROUND			
	IN				
	TURN AROUND				
	OUT				
	IN				
	TURN AROUND				
	OUT				
	IN				
	TURN AROUND				
	OUT				
	IN				
	TURN AROUND				
	OUT				