



PS-4

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY

In effect:

Authorized by:

PS-4 Rapid Intervention Company

I. Purpose

To establish the roles and responsibilities of the Rapid Intervention Company.

II. Policy

The Sam Bass Fire Department will establish and maintain a Rapid Intervention Company at all incidents at which there is a risk to firefighters of entrapment or injury. This RIC will be used for immediate deployment to effect a rescue of trapped or lost firefighters.

III. Procedure

- A. The Incident Commander (IC) will designate one of the first alarm companies as the RIC Company. The IC will advise by radio which company is designated as the RIC. A working incident includes any of the following:
 - Working fire (defined as any fire where a supply line is laid);
 - Trench rescue
 - Any other incident having significant risk of entrapment or injury to firefighters
- B. The RIC crew will consist of a minimum of two personnel at all times. The designated RIC shall not be assigned additional fire ground duties unless officially relieved of the RIC function.

NOTE: We now have automatic aid with several surrounding departments. This means at a minimum we should have four engines assigned to working fires. In these cases, the second due after establishing a water supply will be the RIC team until the third and fourth due engines arrive on scene. The initial IC will need to announce any change in the RIC duty assignment as soon as possible.



PS-4

- C. If necessary the IC will request additional resources in order to establish the RIC.
- D. The IC may assign multiple units to the RIC function and establish a RIC group when appropriate.
- E. The RIC will report to the Command Post fully bunkered with SCBA, carrying forcible entry tools and prepared to ladder the structure. If an Operations Officer has been designated, the Incident Commander will assign the RIC to him or her. The Operations Officer will ensure the RIC is positioned in the most advantageous location for rapid deployment. After conducting an initial reconnaissance of the structure and performing any necessary proactive tasks, the RIC will remain fully intact, bunkered with SCBA in place, and ready to immediately deploy. The tactical objective of the RIC is to locate and support the downed firefighter until rescue can be effected.
- F. The RIC Officer will be responsible for the following:
 - 1. Reporting to the Operations Officer (or Incident Commander if no Operations Officer has been assigned) and obtaining a briefing with respect to tactical operations and company assignments.
 - 2. Obtaining the RIC bag and other equipment necessary to locate and support the downed firefighter (Thermal Imaging Camera, miscellaneous rescue equipment, medical gear, etc. depending on the circumstances).
 - 3. Reporting to the most advantageous location for rapid deployment.
 - 4. Conducting exterior operations in preparation for RIC entry. This includes establishing hose lines for protection of the RIC, placing ladders for access, escape, and rescue, and monitoring fire conditions.
 - 5. Monitoring fireground radio traffic.
- G. In the event that the RIC is deployed and committed to a rescue operation, the Incident Commander shall immediately request another unit from staging or additional resources from Dispatch to ensure another RIC is established and maintained.



PS-4

- H. The RIC will remain available throughout the incident. If special circumstances arise, such as prolonged incidents or extreme weather conditions, the Incident Commander may relieve the RIC with another company. RIC deactivation will take place only after the Incident Commander carefully assesses the risks to firefighters.