

EMER button until it resets. Upon reset, the radio activating the EMER will return to previously assigned Talk Group.

## RESPONSIBILITY

Firefighters who experience a firefighter emergency must immediately use “Mayday” to announce the situation while they continue to attempt mitigate the emergency. Firefighters should not delay notification of distress. Notifications should occur as soon as the firefighter THINKS he or she is in trouble. The longer you wait to tell somebody you are in trouble the more you jeopardize yourself and the rescuers’ lives.

If a team member is in trouble, the other member(s) of the team shall take appropriate steps to help, which may include but is not limited to providing direct assistance, calling for help, and going to get help. In this situation it is absolutely essential for the affected individual (s) to communicate their intentions and / or actions to the appropriate person in the command structure.

## RAPID INTERVENTION CREW(S) (RIC) AND GROUP(S) (RIG)

### Reserve or Standby Forces

Pro-active Incident Commanders have historically kept one or more additional crews as a reserve force on “standby” or in staging to deal with setbacks or unexpected events. This concept has value in all kinds of incidents and should be routinely implemented. A Rapid Intervention Crew) is required in structure fires with IDLH atmospheres. Backup “entry” teams are also required for entry into IDLH atmospheres found in hazardous materials incidents and in confined space entry.

### Rapid Intervention Group (RIG)

When resources beyond one company are assigned to RIC(s), for example when fires occur in large commercial buildings or a RIC is deployed, a RIG under the command of a Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor (RIG Supervisor) should be created. Examples where a RIG may be needed are 1) firefighters who have become lost and are running out of air; 2) firefighters who have fallen off of or through roofs; and 3) structural collapse. A RIG is established to locate, protect and remove lost, trapped and/or injured firefighters.

### Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC)

A RIC is an on-scene team of at least two members designated, dedicated and equipped to initiate an immediate search and rescue operation if the need arises.

A RIC at a structure fire must meet the following minimum requirements:

- a. Be fully equipped with the appropriate protective clothing, protective equipment and SCBA.
- b. Be briefed on strategy, tactics, crew assignments, locations, specific safety concerns and radio frequencies employed on the incident.
- c. Be continuously aware of the status of personnel in the tactical area.

- d. Be in positive communication with the entry team(s) in full protective clothing with the SCBA donned in the standby mode.

A RIC should be assigned to standby at or near a logical entry/egress point so that deployment may proceed without delay if needed. In large commercial complexes or multi-story occupancies where multiple entry points are made for fire attack/search and rescue a RIC or RIG may be needed at several points of entry.

RIC(s) should “stage” at their standby location(s) forcible entry tools such as a prying tool, chopping tool, pulling tool, bolt or wire cutter, power saw, utility strap, portable lights, spare SCBA and spare SCBA air tank or one or more Rescue Air Kits (RAKs). One or more Thermal Imaging Cameras (TICs) are strongly recommended if available.

A RIC is normally deployed to locate and render immediate aid to lost or injured firefighters. Additional crews must be immediately assigned to replace the deployed RIC. Some common reasons for a RIC deployment are 1) firefighters who have slipped or tripped and fallen and are injured; 2) firefighters who have been struck (by falling objects, wet sheet rock, vehicles) and may be injured and/or entrapped; and 3) firefighters who have partially fallen through floors (mobile homes, basement fires) and are entrapped and/or injured. A deployed RIC *may* be able to handle these types of events.

### **MODULAR DEVELOPMENT OF RIC / RIG**

#### Initial Organization with 1 RIC Assigned (Page 18-11).

Initial response resources are usually managed by the Incident Commander who performs all Command and General Staff functions. RIC will be assigned and staged near the entry point.

#### Expanded Organization with 2 RICs Assigned (Page 18-11).

Expanded organization with Divisions and functional groups. RIC(s) are staging in separate locations (entry/access points) and assigned designators linking them to their respective Divisions. A RIG should be established to manage the RIC(s) and coordinate with Division/Groups for tactical support as necessary.

#### Extended Organization with Deployed RIC and RIG Assigned (Page 18-11).

Extended organization with a deployed RIC now under the command of a Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor. Rescue teams may be ordered and assigned as needed to work within the RIG in support of the deployed RIC. On-going suppression efforts continue with the goal of reducing and/or eliminating hazards in the RIG deployment area to enhance search and rescue efforts. Protective hose lines, ventilation and lighting may be high priorities. One supervisor commanding the search and rescue effort will be better able to prioritize needs, allocate resources and coordinate with adjacent and/or involved suppression divisions/groups.