

Oswego Town Volunteer Fire Department Rapid Intervention Team Best Practice.

1. 3412 should respond to all requests for the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) with a qualified crew. Seating assignments on 3412 should be first given to RIT qualified members and then by seniority to those who are SCBA qualified but not RIT qualified. 3412 Should not respond until a full qualified crew is onboard or all RIT qualified members on IamResponding are currently on the apparatus, whichever occurs first.
2. Crew members will be considered qualified after completing a minimum of:
 - Firefighter I or equivalent
 - Firefighter Survival or equivalent
 - Firefighter Assistance and Search Team (FAST) or approved equivalent
 - OTVFD “in-house” RIT training
 - Approval of Line Officers Committee
3. On arrival of the first Chief Officer (or highest ranking officer in absence of a Chief) they will assume RIT command and a face to face briefing and status report should be obtained from incident command.
4. After the briefing the RIT officer should do a 360 degree walk around of the structure and then report back to incident command with their own status report. Other RIT members are encouraged to do a walk around if time/conditions allow.
5. The RIT officer will then report to his crew all information obtained from the briefing and walk around. Information should include:
 - Location of fire (side of structure, floor level etc)
 - Number of firefighters currently interior and best known location
 - Special hazards noticed on structure (wires, compromised structure, etc)
6. On arrival of RIT at the scene a staging area should be setup as close to incident command and the ‘A’ side of the structure as possible. A tarp should be placed on the ground to protect all tools. A suggested tool cache should include:
 - 2 sets of irons (halligan and flat head axe)
 - 1 short pike pole
 - Chain saw
 - Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC)
 - RIT rope bag
 - Portable lighting (box lights)
 - Spare SCBA
 - Portable radio for each crew member (if possible)
 - Stokes basket (place all tools in while carrying)

7. After the staging area is setup RIT members should then place a ground ladder in at least one (1) window on each side of the structure on every floor above the ground floor. Ladders should be set with either a climbing or bailout angle. A mix of each is preferred. While laddering the structure the crews should be obtaining their own 360 degree size-up of the structure.

8. The RIT team should be ready to respond to a call for service at all times. RIT can be used for any exterior assignment needed but must be able to immediately abandon that assignment for RIT operations. A state of readiness includes:

- Full and proper PPE

- SCBA cylinder full and turned on

- A ready RIT firefighter should only have to “mask up”

9. On notification of RIT operations, RIT command should request a second RIT be started to the scene, and additional EMS resources should also be started to the scene.

10. RIT should attempt to obtain the following information before entering the structure

- Reason for activation (Disoriented, collapse, man down, etc.)

- Number of firefighters in trouble

- Last known location of firefighter(s)

- Current air supply left

- Injuries to firefighter(s)

- Are the firefighter(s) trapped or pinned?

11. RIT should enter the structure with all tools deemed necessary to effect a rescue of the firefighter(s) in trouble. Do not under estimate what you may need, if possible bring everything.

12. RIT should refer to their training in the Firefighter Assistance and Search Team (FAST) training for methods of rescuing a firefighter(s) in trouble.

13. On completion of the RIT evolution all crew members that participate in the evolution WILL go to rehab to be evaluated by EMS. After all members have been cleared by EMS the incident should be turned over to a new standby RIT and the OTVFD RIT should be released from the scene and returned to quarters. All members that participated in the RIT evolution should report all injuries, physical or psychological, to the Officer in Charge prior to being released from the incident.