

<b>SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT</b>		
<b>STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES</b>	<b>ARTICLE: II</b>	<b>SOP: 2707</b>
	<b>SECTION: 2700</b>	<b>INCIDENT COMMAND FIREGROUND OPERATIONS</b>
	<b>SUBJECT: RAPID INTERVENTION CREWS</b>	

**Purpose:** To provide an awareness of rapid intervention groups, their purpose, function, and procedure.

**Scope:** To be followed by all personnel when establishing or performing in the capacity of a rapid intervention group.

**Background:**

The concept of holding a company in reserve or creating a staffing pool for the purpose of having a stand-by reserve of resources to assist an initial attack assignment in the event the scene escalates, deteriorates, or IA forces require relief due to fatigue is a common and prudent practice.

The use of rapid intervention groups in recent years is an effort to formalize this basic fireground concept and give it a universal identifier. The definition of rapid intervention group is "a resource or resources assembled for the purpose of assisting emergency personnel who are working an incident and may need rescue, backup, or some other immediate type of support due to an unstable or deteriorating environment".

**Procedure:**

1. Rapid intervention crews need to consist of a minimum of two members. Crew shall be fully equipped with the appropriate protective clothing, equipment and any specialized rescue equipment that might be needed given the specifics of the operation underway.
2. In the early states of the incident, the rapid intervention crew can be either a) on-scene members designated and dedicated as rapid intervention crew(s), or b) on-scene members performing other functions but ready to redeploy to perform rapid intervention crew functions.

<b>DATE:</b> 5/01/98	<b>APPROVED:</b> 	<b>PAGE 1 OF 2</b>
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3. The incident commander may initiate the formation of such a group at any time using any combination of on-scene fire resources that fill the need as long as there is a ladder, buddy system and common communication.
  
4. Once the incident stabilizes, or the need is no longer required, the rapid intervention group designator should be removed and the group reassigned or released.

<b>DATE:</b> 5/01/98	<b>APPROVED:</b> 	<b>PAGE 2 OF 2</b>
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