



## RIC OPERATIONS (1.1)

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Developed by Lieutenant RJ Varner  
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- NFPA 1670

### TASK SKILL DESCRIPTION AND DETAIL

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One of the most stressful situations you'll ever encounter during your career as a firefighter will be rescuing one of your own! While you may go through your entire career without performing a firefighter rescue, the reality is that you may have to perform one the next time you respond. **Failure to plan for a potential firefighter rescue is planning to fail. There are no second chances on the fireground!**

**Arrive** early at the incident, because maydays can happen at any time during an incident.

- Check in with IC/ISO
- If at all possible entire crew perform a 360/Incident size up
- Evaluate location & extent of fire for RIC Operations

#### RIC Officer

- Perform 360/Incident size up
- Evaluate IAP's from IC, Fire Attack Group Supervisor, Support Group Supervisor
- Establish RIC Staging area

#### Search Firefighters

- Perform 360/Incident size up if able to
- Collect appropriate equipment needed and assemble at designated staging area
- Receive any needed information from RIC Officer after his 360
- Follow Officers direction, listen to fireground talk group/groups, know what companies are operating and where

### Staging Area for RIC:

#### Location:

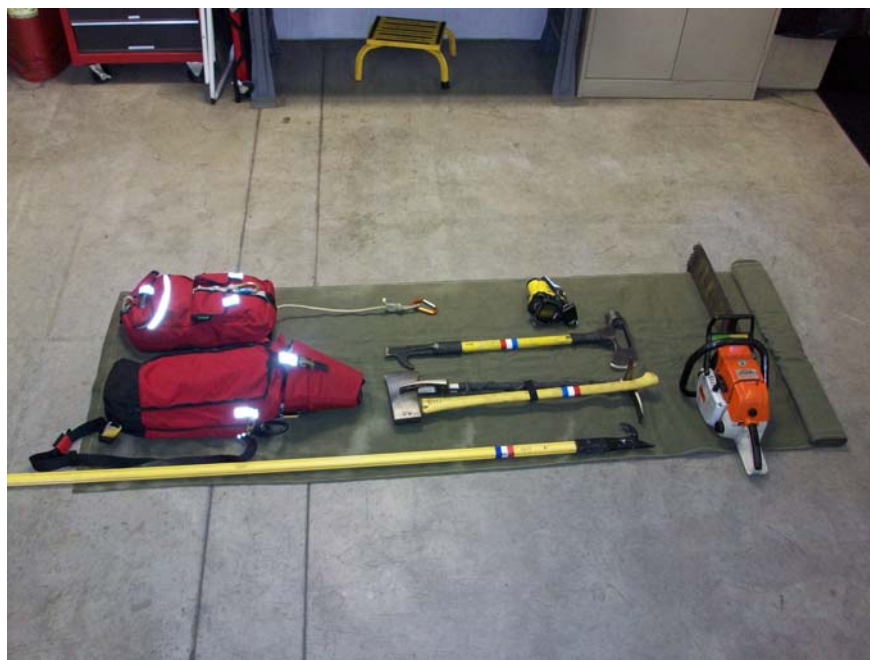
- Stage as close as possible to the entrance that will most likely be used to begin the search for the firefighter in trouble

#### Staged Equipment:

- Minimum equipment but not limited to (see Figure 1):
  1. RIC kit
  2. Search rope
  3. Thermal imaging camera



4. Irons
5. Maul or sledgehammer
6. Short pick pole
7. Saw suitable for most tasks in the particular type of construction



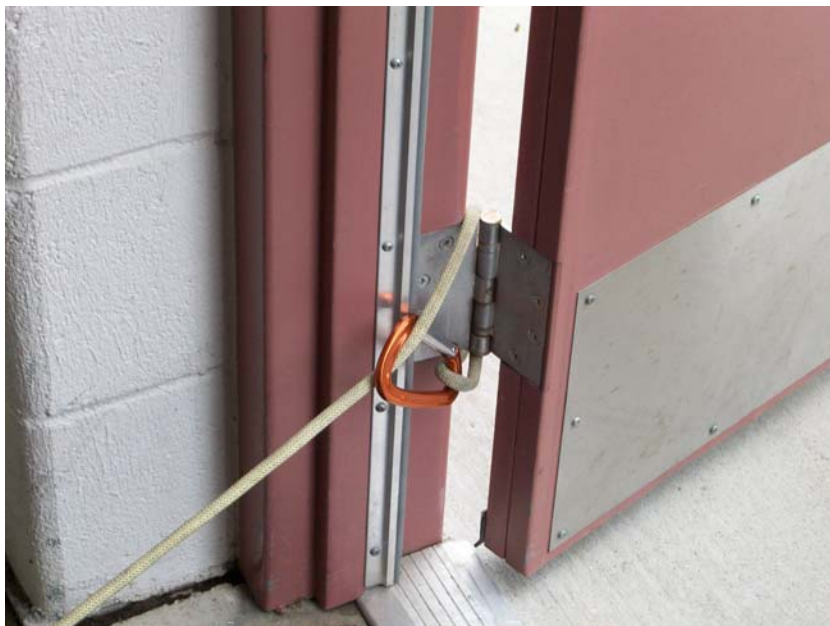
**Figure 1 - RIC Equipment**

#### **Deployment of RIC:**

- Pre Entry
  1. Confirm the MAYDAY information--- LUNAR
    - Last known location
    - Unit number
    - Name (use last name – not equipment number)
    - Air /Assignment
    - Resource(s) needed
  2. Confirm crew assignments
  3. Announce the entry location
  4. Use a RIC tag line and attach it to an outside anchor point (see Figure 2)
- Searching
  1. Have a plan and follow it
  2. Communicate a can report
  3. Bring the right equipment



4. Search for a firefighter (its different then searching for a civilian)
  5. Monitor interior conditions
  6. Monitor air supply
  7. Don't become part of the problem
  8. Call for additional resources before they are needed
  9. Use any and all techniques to find the firefighter
- Officer (see Figure 3)
    1. Lead on the RIC bag for rescue operation
    2. Deploys and manages the tag line
    3. Coordinates and directs the RIC Operations
    4. Communicate with the IC or Rescue Group Supervisor
  - Firefighter #1:
    1. Search function/position
    2. 2<sup>nd</sup> on the tag line
    3. Follow the Officer's direction
    4. Search for secondary egress after the firefighter located
  - Firefighter #2:
    1. Last position on the tag line
    2. Transports the RIC kit
    3. Evaluates the air supply needs
    4. Secures the air supply and packages downed firefighter
    5. Follows the Officer's direction



**Figure 2 - Tagline attached to an outside anchor**



**Figure 3 - Officer leading the search operation**



**Figure 4 - Officer leading the search operation**

- Firefighter located
  1. Notify Command/Rescue
  2. Call for an additional RIC
  3. Assess the firefighter (see Figure 6)
  4. Assess the conditions
  5. Assess the RIC members
  6. Secure the firefighter's air supply
  7. Develop the rescue/removal location (see Figure 7)
  8. Determine the best removal location
  9. Package the firefighter for removal (see Figures 8 – 10)
  10. Rescue/remove the firefighter (see Figure 11 – 14)
  11. Update Command/Rescue of progress



**Figure 5 - Firefighter located**



**Figure 6 - Assessing the firefighter**



**Figure 7 - Developing the rescue plan**



**Figure 8 - Packaging the firefighter**



**Figure 9 - Packaging the firefighter**



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**Figure 10 - Packaging the firefighter**



**Figure 11 - Removal technique**



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**Figure 12 - Removal technique**



**Figure 13 - Removal technique**



**Figure 14 - Removal technique**