



Montgomery County Rapid Intervention Team Minimum Staffing Standard

A Recommended Practice

By the Montgomery County Fire Service

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "George B. Wilmot".

George Wilmot, President
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October 2017

ABSTRACT

Rapid Intervention Teams are essential for the safety of our first responders.

This paper recommends a minimum staffing of four (4) RIT-qualified on any apparatus assigned to rapid intervention team services.

Further, it is strongly recommended that “RIT-qualified” be defined as firefighters who have been trained to NFPA 1407 – Standard for Training Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews.

In addition, it is recommended that the current protocol for response checks not apply to Rapid Intervention Team unit response.

PURPOSE:

- The intent of this paper is to recommend a common standard to be used by fire service providers responding within Montgomery County to ensure that Rapid Intervention Teams are properly staffed to accomplish their objectives and to automatically replace understaffed units.
- This standard is intended to provide for the minimum staffing and training for all Rapid Intervention Teams.

SCOPE:

- It is intended that this standard apply to all fire service providers who provide Rapid Intervention Team services within Montgomery County.

RESPONSIBILITY:

- It is intended that the responsibility for compliance with this standard be vested in the providers of Rapid Intervention Team services.

DEFINITIONS:

- Minimum staffing - the minimum amount of RIT – qualified team members responding on a RIT unit.
- Rapid Intervention Team (RIT): - a dedicated crew of firefighters who are assigned for rapid deployment to rescue lost or trapped members.
- RIT qualified: - to be determined by the company providing Rapid Intervention Team; however it is strongly recommended that each agency adhere to the NFPA 1407¹ training standard.
- RIT unit – the apparatus assigned to perform rapid intervention team services.

¹ National Fire Protection Association. *Standard 1407 – Standard for Training Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews*. Quincy, MA: author.

STANDARD:

- Apparatus responding to emergencies for the purpose of providing rapid intervention team services shall be staffed with at least four (4) RIT-qualified personnel.
- When an apparatus responds to an emergency for the purpose of providing rapid intervention team services, the number of RIT-qualified firefighters shall be announced, as defined in the Montgomery County Staffing Number Standard.
- Response checks / automatic replacement of Rapid Intervention Team units shall be in accordance with Sections 7.11 and 7.11.1 of the Montgomery County Communications Policy and Procedures Manual; however, station call acknowledgement and/or fire officer response will not reset the response check clock for Rapid Intervention Teams.

END