



# Solano County Fire Chiefs Association GUIDELINES

<b>Guideline Name:</b>	<b>RAPID INTERVENTION CREW (RIC)</b>
<b>Number:</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Revision / Reviewed Date:</b>	<b>June 6, 2024</b>

## I. Purpose

To establish a Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) operational guideline that incorporates a proactive approach to increasing firefighter safety and accountability on the fireground with consistency throughout the County.

## II. Definitions

- A. **Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC)** – Three to five firefighters are suggested for a RIC to be effective and their primary function on the fireground is to rescue firefighters who become lost, trapped, or in trouble.
- B. **“Mayday”** – The radio message “MAYDAY” will be reserved **only** to report that a firefighter is lost, trapped, or in trouble and needs immediate assistance. Any “MAYDAY” broadcast will become priority radio traffic and all other fireground radio traffic on that radio channel will cease immediately so that the firefighter broadcasting “MAYDAY” can relay vital information. A “MAYDAY” will typically be broadcast by one of the following personnel:
  - 1. The firefighter who is lost, trapped, cut off, burned over, injured, or in trouble.
  - 2. The Company Officer who cannot account for an assigned firefighter following a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR).
  - 3. By any firefighter who witnesses or has confirmed that a firefighter is lost, trapped, or in trouble.
- C. **Personnel Accountability Report (PAR)** – A roll call taken of all personnel operating on the fireground, usually requested by the Incident Commander during active firefighting operations. The purpose of this roll call is to confirm that all personnel are safe and accounted for.
- D. **RIC Identifier** – Refers to the identifier given to a Company once assigned to the RIC. A RIC may be identified as the apparatus identifier or by a sequential number. When multiple RIC teams are established, they may be identified by apparatus identifier or by sequential order in which they are established (i.e. RIC 1, RIC 2, RIC 3, etc.).
- E. **Mayday Parameters** – Guideline # 09 was developed to assist firefighters in recognizing potentially life threatening situations in which it is appropriate to broadcast “MAYDAY” and call for help. “MAYDAY” is intended to be used for all risk situations. Guideline # 09 also addresses the use of “EMERGENCY TRAFFIC”.



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- F. **Personal Alert Safety System (PASS)** – A personal alarm that is incorporated into the self-contained-breathing-apparatus. This alarm is a one-way communication device that signals that the firefighter is in trouble and needs immediate assistance. The alarm also serves as a beacon to assist rescuers in finding the firefighter by emitting a high pitched squeal and flashing lights. This alarm is activated either manually or automatically when the wearer is motionless for approximately 30 seconds.
- G. **IDLH** – Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health. An environment likely to cause death, immediate or delayed health effects, or prevent escape from such an environment.
- H. **Two-In/Two-Out** – Per OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard 29 CFR 1910.134, when an IDLH atmosphere exists, two appropriately equipped personnel must remain on stand-by outside the hazard area while a team of two appropriately equipped personnel work inside the IDLH atmosphere. The purpose of this stand-by crew is to track personnel operating in the hazard area and provide rescue for those personnel should they become in trouble and need immediate assistance. Per this guideline, any structure fire that has progressed beyond the “Incipient Stage” is considered to be an IDLH atmosphere. The two exceptions to this rule are the fire is incipient or there is a reasonable belief that immediate actions would result in the rescue of a living victim.

### III. Procedure

- A. The RIC must be prepared to rescue firefighters once assigned. Any Company assigned as a RIC will take proactive measures to identify, eliminate, or reduce the hazards present on the fireground.
- B. The RIC should begin a size-up by developing a mental picture of the structure and where operating companies may be working inside. Utilize your personal knowledge of the type of construction and special hazards that you may encounter in making decisions.
- C. Once assigned, the RIC will perform a size-up and report any concerns to the immediate Supervisor. (See RIC Leader Deployment Checklist):
  - 1. Perform a 360-degree survey of the exterior of the fire building when possible
  - 2. Identify the number and location of assigned companies in the fire building
  - 3. Identify the operational strategy and tactics
  - 4. Identify the location and extent of fire in the building including flow path(s)
  - 5. Identify all points of access/egress



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6. Identify the construction type and any dangerous features associated with it
7. Identify any barriers/obstacles present (burglar bars, security doors, boarded up windows, etc.)
8. Confirm the utilities (gas/electric) have been secured
9. Identify any other special hazards (wires down, hazardous materials, dogs in backyard, etc.)
10. Monitor radio traffic throughout the incident for any broadcast of "EMERGENCY TRAFFIC" or "MAYDAY"
11. Identify type of breathing apparatus personnel on scene are using
12. Identify what equipment, personnel, and resources are available to you for rescue operations

D. Secure all points of access/egress:

**NOTE:** It is the responsibility of the RIC Leader to determine which of the following procedures are appropriate based on their size-up, the operational strategy, and tactics developed for the incident. The RIC Leader will also refrain from actions that may adversely affect fire behavior such as the opening of windows and doors.

1. Manage all exterior doors that have hoselines deployed through them in order to control the flow path(s). Provide lighting at exit points when possible.
2. Force locked exterior doors as needed (leave doors shut).
3. Remove all window barricades such as burglar bars, steel grates; plywood, etc. (leave glass intact).
4. Raise ladders to upper floor windows.
5. Raise a second ladder to the roof for secondary egress for roof operations.

E. Establish a RIC tool cache

1. Set-up the tool cache in a location that will allow rapid deployment into the fire building. Layout tools on a tarp or consider keeping cache portable if appropriate.
2. Select the tools based on size-up, tools available and the tasks to be accomplished.
3. Protect and maintain the RIC tool cache throughout incident.
4. The tool cache should include all items listed in the *RIC Leader Deployment Checklist*



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F. The Firefighter broadcasting “MAYDAY” will attempt to provide the following information:

**L**ocation: Where you are

**U**nit: The unit you are assigned.

**N**ame: Who you are and/or the person who requires assistance.

**A**ssignment/Air: What are you doing? Air?

**R**esource: What resources are needed to effect the rescue?

G. RIC Activation

1. Immediately following a “MAYDAY” broadcast the immediate Supervisor or Incident Commander will clear the radio channel in use by the person requesting assistance. (See *Incident Command Checklist – RIC*)
2. The RIC will be deployed and a RIC Group Supervisor should be assigned.
3. The RIC should be provided with the LUNAR acronym information at the time of deployment.
4. Immediately after assigning a RIC to rescue operations, the Incident Commander should request an additional alarm(s) and assign an additional RIC(s) to stage.
5. Immediately after requesting additional alarms the Incident Commander should request a PAR of all Companies operating on the fireground. The Incident Commander will systematically request the PAR through Division/ Group Supervisors. All Companies shall remain on their currently assigned channel and observe strict radio discipline. Once the Incident Commander has determined the extent of the “MAYDAY”, a change to the incident communications plan may be implemented. All personnel assigned to the incident should be prepared to switch to an alternative TAC channel(s) if directed.
6. The RIC will deploy to the best point possible to effect a rescue operation. From this point forward all radio communications from the firefighter needing assistance should be directed towards the RIC Leader or RIC Group Supervisor. Once the RIC has located the firefighter needing assistance they will immediately conduct a PACCAN and then report information to the immediate Supervisor.



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- PASS** Deactivate the PASS device
- AIR/ASSESS** Determine the downed person air supply situation, name, rank, company identifier
- COMMUNICATE** The RIC communicates their findings of the person to their immediate Supervisor
- CONDITIONS** The finding should include the conditions present, air supply, location, name and rank of the individual found, company identifier, and environment encountered
- ACTIONS** The RIC will then report the actions they will take to extricate the firefighter(s)
- NEEDS** The RIC will then report any additional needs

7. Upon completion of the rescue, the RIC Group Supervisor or RIC Leader will perform a PAR of all RIC personnel and advise the Incident Commander of their status. The IC will then terminate the "MAYDAY" and notify the appropriate dispatch center(s). The RIC will remain intact and available for deployment until disbanded or reassigned by the Incident Commander. The RIC may need to report to rehab and gather tools before being reassigned.
8. Appendix "C" is a checklist used by the RIC Leader or RIC Group Supervisor. It will serve as an accountability form for tracking RIC(s).
9. The Incident Commander should consider the following when a "Mayday" is broadcast:
  - a. Size and type of emergency may require more than one RIC
  - b. Reinforce firefighting positions
  - c. Aggressively protect the rescue area
  - d. Provide lighting and ventilation as needed
  - e. In a collapse situation, withdraw personnel from the affected area of the building
  - f. Establish a treatment and transport group for any rescued Firefighters
  - g. Consider appointing a Medical Group Supervisor if multiple casualties
  - h. Special request technical rescue teams and specialized equipment at all structural collapses involving trapped Firefighters
  - i. Continue to evaluate structural stability throughout the incident
  - j. Monitor both primary and tactical channels throughout the Incident for "EMERGENCY TRAFFIC" or "MAYDAY" broadcasts



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## RIC INCIDENT COMMANDER CHECKLIST

- "MAYDAY" announced
- Clear radio channel with "ALL UNITS HOLD YOUR RADIO TRAFFIC"
- Acknowledge "MAYDAY" broadcast from the person in trouble and obtain the following information:

**Location:**

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**Unit:**

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**Name:**

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**Assignment/Air:**

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**Resource:**

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**Location:**

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- Inform RIC of LUNAR information and deploy
- Assign RIC Group Supervisor and leave on initial tactical channel
- Move fire suppression resources to new tactical channel when appropriate
- Request additional alarm(s)
- Request ambulance(s) and possible helicopter(s)
- Establish additional RIC(s) to standby
- Maintain fire suppression activities and protect rescue area
- Maintain accountability of personnel
- Monitor and support RIC operation(s)
- Continue to size up entire incident
- Consider Medical Group Supervisor
- Maintain Radio Discipline



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## RIC LEADER DEPLOYMENT CHECKLIST

### SIZE UP

- Report to RIC Group Supervisor or Incident Commander
- Perform a 360°
- Construction Type
- Access/Egress
- Barriers/Obstacles
- Hazards
- Utilities
- Operational Strategy/ Tactics
- Location of Working Crews
- Location of Fire / Identify Flow Path(s)
- Expected Fire Extension

### SET UP MOBILE TOOL CACHE

Thermal Imager	Search Rope
Ladders	RIC Bag/ Emergency Air Supply With Face Piece
Hand Lights	Halligan, Flat Head Axe, Sledge Hammer
Chainsaw and Rotary Saw	Airbags, Porta Power Tools, Extrication Tools
Cribbing	Additional Tools Based On Size Up

### PROACTIVE TASKS

- Monitor radio for "MAYDAY" traffic
- Manage open exterior doors with hose lines through them
- Place hand lights at entry/exit points
- Remove obstacles to access/egress
- Ladder second floor windows
- Additional ladder to roof for ventilation operations second egress
- Report hazards to Rescue Group Supervisor or IC
- Secure utilities
- Limit tactics that will spread the fire
- Identify type of breathing apparatus used by personnel on scene
- Identify what equipment, personnel and resources are available to you for rescue operations



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RIC Checklist

RIC Company	Times		PAR Request / Updates PAR-Rings-Knots-Air					PAC/CAN (Firefighter Found) Knots / Location
			Times	PAR	Rings	Knots	Air	
	In							
	Turn Around							
	Out							
	In							
	Turn Around							
	Out							
	In							
	Turn Around							
	Out							
	In							
	Turn Around							
	Out							