

**EL DORADO COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT  
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

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**ARTICLE 3:** EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

EFFECTIVE DATE: **05-23-1999**

**SECTION 21:** RAPID INTERVENTION CREW (RIC)

REVISED DATE: **06-18-2020**

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3.15.1       **SCOPE:** This policy provides standard operating guidelines for El Dorado County Fire members to operate at emergencies to provide a rapid response by fire personnel for search and rescue of lost or downed firefighters.

3.15.2       **PURPOSE:** Provide personnel for the rescue of firefighters by assigning a dedicated crew to monitor fire conditions and perform rescue when required.

3.15.3       **REFERENCE:** Department specific Two-In/Two-Out Policy California Code of Regulations, title 8, section 5144(g) ICS 910  
FIRESCOPE– “Fire Incident Safety and Accountability Guidelines”  
NFPA

3.15.4       **DEFINITIONS:**

**ECC** – Emergency Communications Center

**ECF** – “El Dorado County Fire Protection District”. Our California State-wide Mutual Aid Identifier.

**Emergency Traffic:** Phrase used to alert personnel of a significant fire ground event.

**Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH):** An atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual’s ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere. Any structural fire beyond the incipient stage is considered to be an IDLH atmosphere by Cal OSHA.

**Incident Commander (IC):** The individual with overall responsibility for the incident

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**Incipient phase** – Any fire which is at the initial or beginning phase and which can still be controlled or extinguished by portable extinguishers, class II standpipes or small hose lines (1 ½”), generally a structural fire of room and contents or smaller. Personnel are able to enter atmosphere without the use of SCBA.

**Indirect action** – A defensive fire fighting action. Taking action at a structure fire from the exterior. Example - protecting exposures, shut off utilities, secure a water supply, use hose streams from the exterior of the structure.

**Initial Attack** – First arriving Company on scene performing initial size-up and control efforts.

**Personnel Accountability Report (PAR):** A systematic accounting of fire ground personnel.

**Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC):** A properly trained crew that is staffed with a minimum of two (2) personnel and performs tasks as defined by the IC.

**Report on Conditions** – Report by the first arriving Officer or Unit on the scene advising the ECC of current conditions at the incident.

**Structure Fire** – A fire in a structure. May included occupied dwellings, businesses, commercial buildings, manufacturing plants, warehouses or storage.

**Working Fire** – Terminology used for fire in closed environments that indicates an IDLH atmosphere exists and all efforts to comply with this policy shall be used.

3.15.5

### **POLICY:**

1. The IC shall be responsible for establishing a RIC.
2. On incidents where a Two-In/Two-Out Team has been established, the IC or his designee shall transition from the Two-In/Two-Out Team to a RIC as soon as possible and practical.

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3. When adequate resources are available and conditions warrant the assignment, a RIC should be established immediately, and this will satisfy the requirement for Two-In / Two out
4. Additional RIC companies may be added due to size of the building or complexity of the incident.
5. The radio designator shall be “RIC”; the IC shall transmit this over the radio on both command and tactical channels. In addition, the IC shall request a separate Tactical channel dedicated for RIC for initial setup operations
6. The “RIC” designator may also reflect a geographic location or function if multiple RIC’s are formed. (e.g. “Division B RIC”, “Division 1 RIC”, “RIC Group”)
7. Once a company has been assigned as the RIC, the IC shall not reassign them to other tasks that restrict their ability to immediately respond to a fireground emergency.
8. The IC should not transfer the assignment of RIC from the initially assigned company to other companies. This will avoid any loss of critical safety information.
9. The RIC function will continue until the incident has concluded or the IC determines that a RIC is no longer needed based on a hazard assessment. Consideration should be given to keeping the RIC operational in cases where active fire suppression operations have ceased, yet overhaul operations or other activities are being conducted in areas with potential hazards.
10. All incidents involving IDLH shall comply with this policy.
11. All interior fire fighting requires personnel shall work in teams of 2 or more at all times.
12. All interior fire fighting shall only be performed when one or more of the following conditions exist:
  - a. There is **NO IDLH** atmosphere

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- b. There is a **known** rescue
- c. **Two in/Two out and/or a RIC** has been established

3.15.6        **PROCEDURE:**

1. **Staffing:** All RIC teams shall be staffed per District Policy, maintaining the company's integrity, with staffing never to be less than two firefighters. All RIC members will be equipped with full personal protective equipment and radio communications. On incidents that require more than one RIC to be deployed, each RIC leader will report to their direct supervisor (i.e. Division/Group Supervisor)
2. **Location at incident:** RIC should be located in a place on the fireground that will facilitate deployment in a rapid and safe fashion.
3. **Responsibilities:** The primary task of the RIC is to respond to any report of firefighter distress. Generally, firefighters in distress fall into one of four situations;
  - a. Unable to move by being trapped in debris, collapse or other entanglements.
  - b. Disoriented and/or lost in a building
  - c. Where air supply is insufficient to successfully exit the IDLH environment.
  - d. Missing after a PAR check
4. **Equipment:** Specific tasks and tool selection will vary from incident to incident based on building type, fire conditions and size of building. The following minimum tasks shall be completed at every incident where RIC has been activated;
  - a. Report in with IC
  - b. Determine tactical frequency and monitor all radio traffic
  - c. Assemble tool cache (refer to RIC Equipment Check-Off list)
  - d. Check all sides of the fire building for conditions and access.
  - e. Force, but do not open doors remote to interior fire crews as appropriate without disturbing fire suppression efforts and interior fire atmosphere
  - f. Consider placing and escape ladder(s) when operations are above ground floor.
  - g. Continuously monitor radio traffic, fire-building conditions and crew condition.

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5. **Deployment:** RIC shall be deployed when either the IC or the RIC leader receives a radio message or personally observes a significant fireground event that entraps or injures firefighters. This includes, but is not limited to the following conditions;
- a. Actual or impending building collapse that entraps firefighters
  - b. Firefighters in distress or missing after a PAR check

**END**