

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA**

**POLICY# 9**

<b>TOPIC: Rapid Intervention Crew Minimum Equipment Cache</b>			
<b>Revision Date</b> <i>April 7, 2010</i>	<b>Replaces</b> <i>New</i>	<b>Approved By</b> <b>County Chiefs</b>	<b>Pages</b> <b>3</b>
<b>DISPOSITION: Operational Area Policy Manual</b>			

**Introduction:**

Firefighters who are lost, trapped, or missing in an “immediately dangerous to life or health” (IDLH) environment have only minutes to receive help before their chances for survival drop dramatically. Failure to pre-plan critical information and pre-position “Rapid Intervention Crew” (RIC) personnel and a minimum standardized equipment cache prior to a fire ground emergency may delay or prevent a successful outcome.

**Background:**

In compliance with California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5144 a Two-In/Two-Out team must be in place before entering an IDLH. Once a Two-In/Two-Out team is in place at an incident they can begin the transition of becoming a RIC. Real time training has proven that it can take four or more engine companies to facilitate a rescue of a firefighter who is in jeopardy. There are eleven agencies within Contra Costa County that can work together on automatic aid daily. The logistics required to staff a RIC and rotate relief personnel during a fire ground emergency require that all agencies have a minimum cache of standardized RIC equipment that all agencies are familiar with.

**Policy:**

Upon the effective date of this policy, all fire agencies within Contra Costa County shall set a priority that all future RIC related equipment purchases shall comply with this policy. Furthermore, once procured, this equipment and all existing equipment is to be maintained and available so that any assigned crew on a multi-resource incident will have access to it in order to establish a RIC team and set up a minimum standardized cache of tools to facilitate a potential rescue. This policy is not intended to make obsolete existing non-compliant equipment or limit the equipment that any agency deems necessary. The overall intention is that all fire agencies update their RIC related equipment as needed and fiscally possible, to comply with this policy in a manner to insure that a minimum level of tools that are familiar to any intra-county agency are available. This minimum equipment list shall consist of:

- RIC Equipment Staging Tarp:** The equipment staging tarp shall be readily identifiable and shall be a minimum of 3' x 6' in size and shall be constructed of a marine grade vinyl or canvas style material of at least 18 oz weight for better stability in adverse weather and shall be red in color so as to be highly visible in all fire ground situations. Individual agency training shall include provisions stating that the equipment on the staging tarp is strictly for the use by the RIC team.
- RIC Pack:** Regardless of the brand of SCBA's that are used by each agency, the RIC Pack shall contain a minimum of a 66 cubic feet, 4,500 psi air bottle and shall be complete with first and second stage regulators as required by the manufacturer as well as a spare mask that can be used when the SCBA's are not compatible or the mask on the victim is damaged. Additionally, a high pressure hose with a RIC universal air connection to connect to down firefighters SCBA shall also be provided on the RIC Pack. Agencies are not limited by this policy in including additional equipment in the RIC Pack that enhances its use within the individual department such as quick connect regulator fittings that allow for "buddy breathing", scissors, flashlights and any other specialized equipment deemed necessary so long as the minimum requirement of the pack being able to work with any brand of SCBA is not circumvented.
- Search Rope:** The large area search rope shall be a 9 mm x 220' RIT multi-cord Aramid search line and shall be stored in a heavy duty canvas or vinyl covered polyester bag in such a manner that the rope can be pulled out while making access into a structure. The leading end shall have a figure eight loop with a large carabineer that has a minimum 1-3/4" gate opening to be used as an anchor point. A ring and knot system shall be utilized to provide an easy method of determining how far a crew has advanced into a building. Starting at 20' from the leading end and every 20' thereafter, a knot with a 2" steel ring shall be incorporated into the rope followed by additional knots to indicate the distance in 20' increments. As an example, 40' from the leading edge shall be a knot with a 2" ring followed by two additional knots to signify 40'. This pattern shall be followed the entire length of the search rope. (a ring and three knots at 60', a ring and four knots at 80' and so on) An identification tag or label shall be provided on the leading end of the rope. The tag shall be a minimum of 3" x 12" and shall be made from a Kevlar/Nomex material with the company identifier sewn on in reflective characters visible from both sides. This tag or label shall be attached to the rope with rings that allow it to be slid one direction or another. The search rope and bag shall be equivalent to Lee & Associates Rescue Equipment Inc. P/N# RSK-LEE2200-200STD
- Lateral Search Ropes:** Two 6.8 mm x 20' lateral Aramid search ropes with a heavy duty positive latching carabineer clip on the leading end of the rope to clip into the rings on the main search rope and a loop on the other end that can be expanded to fit around a person's wrist to hold on to. Each lateral search rope shall be provided with a cover designed to fit into a firefighter's cargo pockets on their bunker pants. The lateral search rope and bag shall be equivalent to Lee & Associates Rescue Equipment Inc. P/N# RSK-LEE0200-020GMG

- **Rescue Sled or Tarp:** A 3' x 6' heavy duty rescue sled type tarp (McGuire or GM tarp) shall be provided to facilitate the removal of a down firefighter. The tarp shall be constructed of a heavy duty marine grade vinyl or vinyl-covered polyester designed for heavy abrasion. The tarp shall be red to serve as a bright contrast color and shall have six web material loops sewn in each corner and the middle of the 6' sides to provide hand holds by which to carry a victim. In addition, a 4' web strap with loops on each end shall be sewn in the center to reinforce the tarp and provide additional loops to secure the victim into the tarp. Each agency may add such hardware as large non-locking carabineers or additional webbing to facilitate removing a victim from the emergency scene. The rescue tarp shall be equivalent to Lee & Associates Rescue Equipment Inc. P/N# RPK-SECGMG0-000Red and the straps shall be equivalent to Lee & Associates Rescue Equipment Inc. P/N# RPK-SECGMG0002
- **Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC):** One thermal imaging camera with spare battery. The TIC should be carried at all times by one of the RIC team's members to check windows and walls for heat buildup and for general security purposes.
- **Forcible Entry Tools (Irons):** One minimum 6 lb. flat head axe and one minimum 30" Halligan type pry bar shall be provided and staged on the tarp.
- **Sledge Hammer:** One minimum 10 lb. sledge hammer.
- **Bolt Cutters:** One pair of 36" or larger bolt cutters with case hardened jaws designed to cut through ½ steel bars.
- **Pike Pole:** One minimum 6' or longer pike pole with a hooked end.

The above RIC equipment list represents the minimum standardized list of tools that shall be provided by every agency to be utilized by the assigned RIC. In addition to these items, each agency shall determine what additional equipment should be staged and be available for use. The list should include but not be limited to:

- Trauma and first aid equipment including ALS intervention if the team is certified.
- Circular saw with metal blade and spare blades.
- Ventilation chain saw with spare chain and wrench.
- Box type flash lights for use in searching and signifying secondary exits
- 150' or longer 1-3/4" hose line if required to be used inside the IDLH or support the RIC personnel