

ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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RESPONDER INTERVENTION TEAM

VIRTUAL CORNERSTONE 2020

The vast majority of fireground fatalities are caused by one or a combination of the following factors:

- **Improper size-up**
- **Disorientation/ lack of crew integrity**
- **Entanglement**
- **Entrapment**
- **Lack of good "communication"**
- **SCBA problem**
- **Operating floor above/basement fire/roof**
- **Lack of situational awareness**

Size up: The RIT must immediately assess the building, to determine its type of construction, as well as any hazards visible from the exterior. If these hazards are identified early in the incident, they will be easier to manage if the need arises.

- One of the first observations that must be made upon arriving on a fire scene is to determine where the fire has been, where it is at, and where it is going.
- From a RIT standpoint, B.A.G. must be constantly evaluated to determine building integrity, safe havens, and areas in which interior crews may be in danger from flashover or interior collapse.
- It is crucial for a RIT to constantly monitor the progress of units on the fireground.
- Understanding the stages of fire attack will allow the RIT to better anticipate unit positions and possible safety issues.
- Constant reading of the building and conditions.

Construction Features

- Lightweight Construction
- Trussed Construction
- Reinforcement
- Leaning/bulging walls
- Sagging roof or floors
- Heavy fire/long burn time
- Smoke pushing through cracks, etc.
- Heavy water application

Disorientation

Causes: no hoseline or rope. (follow hose or use rope)

- Poor search technique (maintain contact with wall or another firefighter)
- Stress/Panic
- No recall of landmarks (maintain situational awareness and alert others)
- Collapse

RIT Situational Awareness

- The RIT must first be aware of building characteristics and conditions which may affect the safety of crews inside the building.
- In addition, the RIT must be aware of the safety of its members when entering a structure.

Calling the Mayday

Is it a MAYDAY or an emergency?

Call MAYDAY when:

- Lost, trapped, or missing members
- Structural collapse
- Air emergency
- “Down” or injured FF’s
- Rapidly deteriorating conditions (flashover)

Emergency or MAYDAY may not mean evacuate, unless ordered by IC

LUNAR

- Location
- Unit
- Name
- Assignment
- Resources needed

LIP

- Location
- Identification
- Problem

Drags, Carries, and Movement

- One Rescuer Drag
- Two Rescuer Drag
- Movement on stairs
- Down Member missing PPE

Supporting RIT

- Engine Company
 - Hold fire in check, keep from spreading toward path of RIT.
 - Utilize hoseline to keep fire off of downed firefighter.
 - Protect stairwells and methods of egress
- Truck Company
 - Assist RIT with forcible entry obstacles.
 - Ventilate around the RIT to alleviate smoke conditions and allow downed firefighter to be located easier.
 - Provide additional manpower to extricate the downed firefighter.

- During a RIT activation, the priorities of all companies on the fireground must be altered to support the RIT.
- Incident Command may choose to evacuate all units from the building, perform an accountability check, and re-commit units to support the RIT.
- Alternatively, command may hold units in place, conduct accountability, and then change unit assignments to support the RIT.
- Engine Co. continue to do Engine work.
- Truck Co. continue. to do Truck work.
(Unless redirected by IC)
- Change to assigned tactical channel per IC.
- Gain accountability for your crew and crew working around you.
 - Remain Disciplined in your Assignment!