Purpose: To define response, tasks, and organization of the Firefighter Assist and Search Team (FAST), AKA, Rapid Intervention Team (RIT).

Objective: To have a fully equipped rescue team on scene and in a ready state to deploy for the purpose of rescuing injured and trapped firefighters. A FAST shall be considered for all incidents where personnel are subject to hazards that would be potentially dangerous to life and/or health, or subject to danger from equipment failure or sudden change of conditions.

A Firefighter Assist and Search Team (FAST) ***shall be established on all structure fires that have grown beyond the incipient stage***, ***other incidents where personnel are subject to hazardous environments or when Incident Commander (IC) deems it necessary.***

- "BEYOND THE INCIPIENT STAGE" IS ANY TIME FIREFIGHTERS ARE “ON AIR” INSIDE THE STRUCTURE OR HAZARD ZONE.

The single objective of the FAST is to standby in a state of readiness; until launched on a rescue mission. The FAST function will continue until the Incident Commander determines that the FAST is no longer needed on the incident.

Definitions

Firefighter Assist and Search Team (FAST): A designated crew that will serve as a stand-by rescue team for personnel and be available for the immediate search and rescue of any missing, trapped, injured or unaccounted for firefighter(s). This team shall be fully equipped with the appropriate personal protective clothing, protective equipment, SCBA and specialized rescue equipment needed as based on the specifics of the operation that is underway.

Operations/Deployment

In the majority of circumstances NKFD firefighters assigned to the first alarm assignment shall comprise the FAST company. If the incident escalates to include more personnel and greater risk or hazards, the Incident Commander (IC) may designate additional resources and develop a FAST Company sector consistent with best practices of the Incident Command System (ICS).

Incident Commanders should consider assigning the fifth-due engine company FAST operations.

> *Example: Working structure fire - E1 and R1 arrive on scene and are conducting an aggressive interior fire attack. E3 and E5 stretch a second (back-up) line into the building. L1 is ventilating. E2 is providing a water supply. R3 is assigned the EMS Sector.* ***Command assigns E6 to act as the FAST company.***

The FAST can be supplemented by mutual aid companies. Nothing shall preclude the IC from assigning FAST operations to mutual aid companies, however the intent is for NKFD personnel to assume FAST responsibilities whenever possible.

In the event the IC wishes to assign FAST operations to mutual aid company(s) every effort should be made to ensure these firefighters have the equipment necessary for such activities. Including the means to communicate via radio with IC and other companies on the fire-ground.

FAST Company Sector Responsibilities & Functions

- FAST shall consist of a minimum of two (2) firefighters
    - Optimum four (4) firefighters with assigned leader
- Establish communications with IC and obtain/observe a tactical worksheet
    - Location and position of firefighters working in IDHL atmosphere
- Perform complete size-up

- 360-degree evaluation of fireground including but not limited to: entry/exit points, fire conditions, hazards, and hose/hand line deployment.
- Consider deploying:
  - Additional back-up hose/hand lines
  - Ground ladders as appropriate
  - Lighting to illuminate entry/exit points
- Consider removal of security bars or other devices that may hamper possible rescue activities.
- Consider radio communications / tactical channel

FAST Company Equipment

Team Equipment

Utilize an assigned / designated staging area for the following equipment:

- Stokes / Litter
- Ropes
  - One (1) Search Rope
  - One (1) Rescue Rope w/ carabiners as appropriate
- Two (2) Power Saws
- Hand Tools
  - Irons
  - Sledge hammer
  - Hook
- Thermal Imaging Camera (one (1) at minimum)
- Two (2) One-hour SCBA cylinders
- Two (2) SCOTT RIT Packs
- Ground Ladder
- AED
- Any additional equipment deemed necessary give the size, scope, complexity of incident.

Personal Equipment

All firefighters assigned to the FAST company shall:

- Be in full-PPE including SCBA w/ 1-hour cylinder
- At a minimum have:
    - Portable radio
    - Flashlight
    - Gloves
    - Webbing
    - Trauma Shears
    - Door Chocks
    - Knifes/Wire Cutters