PROACTIVE RIT

Reference: NFPA 1001, 5.3.9 2008 Edition

Purpose: This skill reinforces the concept of proactive RIT operations, which means, exterior actions that a RIT team can do to prevent a MAYDAY situation and to prepare for a RIT activation. The purpose of RIT is to establish a team in the standby mode that is available and responsible for a firefighter rescue. This exercise will discuss the basic tool selections that a proactive RIT should gather and to demonstrate the assembly of those tools. This exercise will also discuss the RIT staging areas and the specific tasks that can be done. There will be a discussion of RIT deployment as well as accessing the firefighter and the procedures for the initial assessment of a downed firefighter using the acronym FRAME, which stands for Find, Roll or Readjust, Assess or Air, Message, and Extricate. When performing several drags and carries, it will be necessary to convert the SCBA harness into a drag harness to expedite the removal of a downed firefighter. There should be a discussion of the basic operations of a RIT bad as well as a practice deployment of the RIT team.

Performance Outcome: The firefighter will be able to predict and identify needs and problems that may arise during a RIT operation. As a RIT team, firefighters will be able to alleviate some problems before they occur. As a RIT team, firefighters will be able to rescue a downed firefighter with various obstacles to overcome along the way. Note: this evolution may be adjusted by the company officer to fit the need of his / her specific crew members.

Materials Required:
Downed firefighter in full PPE.
Two firefighters serving as RIT.
Hand Tools (irons, saws, RIT pack, radio, flashlight, etc).
Any props the company officer deems necessary.
Note: It is the discretion of the company officer what props and configuration are utilized for this company skill.

Critical Teaching Points:
1. This scenario simulates an emergency in which the firefighter is in an emergency and requires rescue.
2. Company Officers should emphasize to students that they shall remain calm while progressing through the evolution.
3. All firefighters should be aware of safety at all times and the company officer should remain aware of safety concerns throughout the evolution.
4. The evolution may be adjusted to meet the needs of the crew or to address any specific deficiencies that have been identified at the discretion of the company officer.
5. The company officer should reinforce this is a standardized method of donning which should be utilized.
6. Time will begin when the firefighter touches any part of the SCBA.

Proactive RIT
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Discuss

1. Basic tool selection
2. Staging area for RIT
3. Proactive RIT tasks
   - Know where all companies are operating
   - Size-up fire and building conditions
   - Make a 360 degree size-up
   - Remove hazards
   - Stay alert and have a plan
   - Throw ladders for escape from roof
   - Remove burglar bars
4. RIT deployment

Demonstrate

1. Assume a search or fire attack team has deployed and lost a firefighter. Track, aid, and rescue the firefighter.
2. Access to Firefighter
   - Upon locating the firefighter, rescuer should silence the PASS device
   - (F) Notify Command that the firefighter has been found.
   - (R) Roll of readjust the firefighter to position for a better assessment.
   - (A) Assess the firefighter’s injuries, air supply, entanglements or entrapments. If the firefighter is low on air or has a malfunctioning SCBA, a RIT Pack conversion would be required (see below)
   - (M) Send message to Command that the firefighter has been located and request additional needs.
   - (E) If the victim is trapped or SCBA harness needs to be converted into a drag harness, begin preparing the victim for extrication.

3. SCBA Conversion for Dragging a Firefighter
   - Tighten shoulder straps allowing enough slack for rescuers to use straps as a drag handle.
   - Secure excess shoulder straps with a half-hitch just under the buckle/clip.
   - Fully extend waist straps.
   - Unbuckle waist straps, without letting go of either strap. Bring one waist strap from behind and one in the front, re-secure both straps between the legs creating an improvised seat harness.
   - Tighten waist straps as much as possible and tie a half-hitch in the excess strap to prevent the strap from releasing.

4. RIT Pack
   - Fill the firefighter’s pack using the universal air connection (UAC) if the firefighter is low on air.
   - Connect the RIT Pack regulator to FF mask if their regulator is malfunctioning.
   - Replace the firefighter’s mask if gone or damaged. Secure RIT bag to downed Firefighter.