RIT Back-Up Drill

New research into the effectiveness of RIT deployments suggests that the first RIT being deployed to an emergency should be considered a triage team or search team. The amount of available air vs. the level of difficulty in getting your objective complete does not match up. Initial RIT may have to stabilize the situation while additional RIT’s respond into the area for the actual rescue. This is not a hard and fast rule, but something that must be considered. Many studies have found that it may take up to 12 firefighters to rescue one firefighter. There are many variables that affect this and your own study should take place to determine your team’s capabilities and limitations.

**Assist Team Duties**
- Support at entry point
- Monitor radio
- Feed line or rope
- Monitor entry time
- Prepare for alternate exit response

**Terminology**
- RIT 2, 3 etc.
- RIT Back-up
- Rapid Assist Team (RAT)
- Assist 1, 2, etc.
- Local unit #

**Scenario**
A MAYDAY was just called for a missing firefighter at a 2 story residential. The firefighter was last on the 2nd floor division C. RIT has been deployed and your crew has been assigned RIT Assist by the I/C.

1. What are your initial actions?
2. What are your tool assignments?
3. Where would you stage?
4. Describe your on-going actions.

**Practical Exercise**
Simulate a RIT response to a missing firefighter. Assign a RIT back-up team to the response and define the duties of the back-up team.

- Lay a charged hoseline 150’ inside a structure.

1. Place a firefighter (or rescue dummy) 25’ off the nozzle. >>Have someone call a MAYDAY describing a missing firefighter situation.
2. Deploy RIT and assign RIT back-up
3. RIT back-up evaluates incident, determines their course of action and prepares to respond.
4. Back-up actions are related to requests of initial RIT.
5. Deploy as requested and required to assist in removal of downed firefighter.

**Suggested actions by RIT Back-up:**
- Prepare for entry to assist RIT in downed ff removal.
- Identify alternate exit points if available
- Determine appropriate tool selection
- Locate at best deployment point
- Monitor radio and entry time of initial RIT
- Monitor fire and emergency conditions