

<b>MISSING/TRAPPED FIREFIGHTER</b>		<b>TROY FIRE DEPT. TACTICAL PLAN 211.03</b>	
<i>Issue</i>	<i>04/99</i>	<i>Revised</i>	<i>05/06</i>
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An incident commander (IC) is faced with many concerns at an incident and must be prepared to handle unanticipated events that may arise on the fire ground. One event that must be planned, and probably the most serious, is a missing or trapped fire fighter.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this plan is to help the IC deal with the urgency and potential confusion of a missing or trapped fire fighter on the fire ground. This plan serves as a guideline for the IC to follow and may be altered as necessary to accommodate extenuating circumstances.

## **NOTIFICATION & ACCOUNTABILITY**

Upon notification of a missing or trapped fire fighter, the IC shall order all units on the fire ground to hold their radio traffic for priorities only and then attempt to call the firefighter over the radio. This will insure that the channel is clear in the event the fire fighter answers, attempts to call for assistance, or advises of his/her location. If the fire fighter cannot be contacted, the incident commander shall contact the staging area manager and order the Rapid Intervention and Tactics (RIT) Team to be immediately sent to the area where the missing/trapped fire fighter is thought to be. The incident commander must then have all fire ground units switch to an alternate radio channel and immediately conduct a personnel accountability roll call. This will leave the RIT team on the original tactical radio channel to communicate with the IC and/or the missing/trapped fire fighter.

## **INCIDENT CONTROL**

It is important that the IC maintain strong control of the incident. Fire fighters operating on the fire ground must not be allowed to abandon their fire fighting assignments to begin their own rescue operation. The original incident must still be managed to prevent further injury or damage from occurring. The IC must have adequate help in the command post to accomplish this task. As soon as possible, someone must be in charge of, and coordinate, the rescue operation being performed by the RIT team. Most likely, this will necessitate the IC creating a Rescue Group, lead by an officer, to relay any requests and to provide timely progress reports.

## **RESCUE**

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Upon arrival to the area of the missing/trapped fire fighter, an assessment of needed resources must be made by the RIT team/Rescue Group. This may include additional tools or personnel, heavy equipment, etc. Depending on the size and nature of the incident and the available resources in Staging, the IC should consider notifying Dispatch that a *"FIRE GROUND EMERGENCY"* exists and request a Second Alarm be dispatched along with any additional EMS units should there be more than one fire fighter unaccounted for or trapped and injured.

The IC must relay any requests from the Rescue Group for specialized equipment or resources to Dispatch immediately, stating calmly and clearly exactly what type of assistance is needed and where it should respond for deployment. Coordination must then be made between these agencies and their personnel. If a Second Alarm is dispatched, the additional arriving units must be assigned a Level II Staging Area.

### **SUPPORT**

It is important that those involved with the rescue operation control their emotions, be aware of their surroundings, and not place themselves or others in a dangerous or life threatening situation. If the rescue situation worsens, the IC should consider requesting the Fire Chaplain, via a staff officer or, if none present, the Duty Officer, to respond to the scene during the rescue operation. If this is not possible, the Fire Chaplain should be contacted as soon as possible after the incident to schedule and conduct a post incident critique with those members involved in the incident.