

To: Chief Mike Richwine
From: Jon Woody
Date: December 18, 2007
Re: Rapid Intervention Crew Tactics and Fire Fighter Survival

This is a proposal to rewrite the Rapid Intervention Crew Tactics course. The intent of this proposal is to expand the course from a 2-day/16-hour course to a 5-day/40-hour course by increasing time for manipulative skills development and topical lecture material. The following provides the necessary information that validates the need for fulfilling the proposal.

First, as a RIC instructor for nearly four years, I have developed a strong passion for the class to ensure fellow colleagues possess the necessary information to safely and successfully perform rescue operations for distressed fire fighters. Over the course of instructing this course, certain elements are known to be a deficit, such as time allocation for manipulative skill development and updated topical information. Validating this assessment, approximately eighty percent (80%) of the student consistently indicate, "Best class/training I've had just wish there was more time."

Currently, the class is structured as a two day - sixteen hour – course. The class consists of both lecture material and skills development. The lecture component, which is a 4-hour segment, that includes: discussion on fire fighter fatality and or near miss incidents, an introduction to RIC tactics, strategies and tools used by the RIC. The skills development training makes up the remaining twelve hours of the course. Attached is a copy of the current curriculum for your review.

It has been my experience as an instructor the only way students will learn something is for them to actually demonstrate that skill. Just showing skill is not enough information for successful performance. Simply stated, each student must be able to first learn the manipulative skill, and second demonstrate they can perform the task without instruction. Essentially, any manipulative skill is a time-sensitive component of a course, and with this course, there is no exception. The current 12-hour timeframe does not allow for all students to complete all the manipulative skill in this course. This is a significant deficit and raises concerns about the quality of the information retained by the students after departing the course.

In regards to the lecture material of the current course, a few shortfalls have been identified. For example, the fire fighter survival skills lecture allocates only one-hour class time, and there is little information provided on building construction and collapse as they relate to rescue operations. Certainly, the information regarding fire fighter survival needs updating and expanding to provide fire fighters with the basic survival information.

The proposed course (Rapid Intervention Crew Tactics and Fire Fighter Survival) expands the RIC training to a forty hours course. In the attached proposed outline, the course would offer several changes. One of the key components increases the fire fighter survival skills from a one hour lecture to a full day segment. This would provide fire fighters with new and updated information and skills they may need when faced with life and death situations. A new component of the course includes a three-hour building construction and collapse lecture. This introduces students to the many hazards facing fire fighters associated with current building construction issues, fires effects on engineered building components, fires progression through certain types of building, collapse indicators etc. Other revisions to the course include increase timeframes for manipulative skills for: breaching and sizing-up a building, searching for downed fire fighters including large building search, providing air to the downed fire fighter, packaging the downed fire fighter for removal. . Lastly, the proposed outline is somewhat generic, to allow flexibility for all agencies. As an

example, searching for a downed fire fighter in a large area may or may not include an introduction to the use of thermal imaging cameras.

In closing my fellow training colleagues support this project (see attachment) to improve Rapid Intervention Crew Tactics and Fire Fighter Survival training for students. This is the most dangerous time to be a fire fighter, and we always evolve as the job evolves. This is the time to update and improve the RIC course.

Thank you,
Jon Woody
Captain
CAL-Fire/ Placer County Fire

NAMES AND AGENCIES OF THOSE WHO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT.

Jim Mathias/ Jon Woody	CAL-Fire/ Placer County Fire
Rick Bennett	Clovis Fire Dept.
Steve Cavallero/ Jerry Pera	Redwood City Fire Dept.
Jerry Good/ James Hudson	Higgins Fire Protection District
Brad Amaral	Nevada County Consolidated Fire Dept.
Glen McGuire/ Jeff Seaton	San Jose Fire Dept.
Dru Odil	Riverside City Fire Dept.