

**MOUNTAIN BROOK FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**POLICY NO.** 105.12

**VOLUME:** 1

**SUBJECT:** Mayday Procedures

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ROBERT W. EZEKIEL, FIRE CHIEF**

12/6/10  
**DATE**

**Policy:** “MAYDAY” procedures are to be used by personnel operating within Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmospheres and in the event they become lost, trapped, injured, or find themselves in any situation that requires rescue. The term “MAYDAY” will be reserved only for firefighters reporting any of the above situations. “Emergency Traffic” will be used to report all other fire ground emergencies.

**Purpose:** To establish guidelines and identify the roles and responsibilities of department personnel when declaring and responding to a “MAYDAY”.

**Procedure:** When a firefighter(s) become lost/trapped or experience equipment malfunction while in an IDLH atmosphere, the following procedures will be followed.

**Declaring a May-Day:**

The firefighter(s) shall transmit “MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY” over the radio, repeat until Incident Command responds to transmission. **DO NOT HESITATE in transmitting a MAYDAY.**

After Incident Command (IC) has acknowledge the Mayday, “LUNAAR” (**L – location, U-unit, N-name, A-air, A- assignment, R-resources needed**) information shall be given to IC. This information shall be repeated by IC to ensure correct information is received. (Example: Second floor, Engine #3, Joe Smith, ¼ tank, Suppression, Ceiling has collapsed and I’m trapped, Need air and assistance in getting out.”)

**Firefighter’s MAYDAY Practices:**

- Activate Pass Device – This should be done after IC has correctly repeated LUNAAR information or firefighter is unable to communicate.
- Stay Together
- Follow Hose or Lifeline
- Search for an Exit
- Retreat to a Safe Refuge
- Stay Calm and Conserve Air
- Flashlight/Tapping Noise

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### **Incident Command Response:**

Upon receipt of a Mayday transmission, IC shall advise all personnel that all radio traffic must cease for MAYDAY traffic. IC will acknowledge the MAYDAY transmission as follows: "All units clear the channel for MAYDAY traffic, MAYDAY go ahead."

IC shall obtain "LUNAAR" (L – location, U-unit, N-name, A-air, A- assignment, R-resources needed) information from firefighter(s) calling the Mayday. All information transmitted from the firefighter(s) calling the Mayday shall be repeated back over the radio.

It is the Incident Commander's option to request an additional tactical channel for incident operations not associated with the Mayday event. If this option is exercised, only radio traffic pertinent to the Mayday shall be permitted on the original tactical channel.

IC shall immediately conduct a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) and commit the Rapid Intervention Crew to the most appropriate location to initiate a rescue. Consideration should be given to assign an Operations Officer (Ops) to manage MAYDAY operations.

### **Canceling the MAYDAY:**

The firefighter(s) calling the MAYDAY can cancel an active MAYDAY through Incident Command if they are able to remove themselves from the hot zone or able to resolve the perceived problem. This may occur if the firefighter safely exits the building or resolves the perceived problem. IC shall ensure everyone is out by conducting a PAR once firefighter(s) have been removed from the hot zone.

### **Terminating MAYDAY Operations:**

MAYDAY operations will be terminated by Incident Command once firefighter(s) have been removed from the hot zone, and completion of PAR.