



MOUNTAIN BROOK FIRE DEPARTMENT

POLICY NO. 105.12 VOLUME: 1

SUBJECT: Mayday Procedure

SIGNED: _____ DATE: 3/24/2018 - revised
Chris J. Mullins, Fire Chief

SCOPE AND PURPOSE: The nature of firefighting places the Firefighter at risk of becoming lost or trapped. The toxic environment provides only a narrow window of survivability, and the rescue of a lost or trapped Firefighter is especially time sensitive. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and identify the roles and responsibilities of department personnel when declaring and responding to a “MAYDAY”.

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.

Communications: The term “MAYDAY” will be reserved only for firefighters reporting any of the above situations and is deemed “Emergency Traffic”. “Priority Traffic” will be used to report all other fire ground emergencies (e.g., downed power lines, fireground hazards).

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 MAYDAY:

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.** Firefighter should activate the emergency alert button on portable radio once a MAYDAY is received by command and/or if unable to transmit a verbal 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.”)

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Firefighter's MAYDAY Practices:

- Activate Pass Device and Emergency Alert Button (radio) – This should be done after IC has correctly repeated LUNAAR information or firefighter is unable to communicate
- Maintain radio contact with IC/RIC
- Stay Together
- Follow Hose or Lifeline
- Search for an Exit
- Retreat to a Safe Refuge
- Stay Calm and Conserve Air
- Flashlight/Tapping Noise

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 Emergency traffic, MAYDAY go ahead."

IC shall obtain "LUNAAR" (L – location, U-unit, N-name, A-air, A- assignment, 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 (see RIC Policy 105.13) 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. At the conclusion of the emergency traffic situation, the Incident Commander shall transmit an "All Clear-Resume Radio Traffic".

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MAYDAY TACTICAL WORKSHEET

CRITICAL INFORMATION

Location last known of missing firefighter	
Unit Engine/Truck Company	
Name	
Air Current air supply	
Assignment of missing firefighter (i.e. right hand search 1 st floor)	
Resources (Does firefighter have immediate needs?)	

RADIO CHANNEL ASSIGNMENTS

Injured Firefighter	CHANNEL	Clear all non "Emergency Traffic" from MAYDAY firefighters frequency
Fireground Operations	CHANNEL	Reassign Fireground operations to TAC1
RIC	CHANNEL	Verify RIC is communicating on MAYDAY frequency.

RESOURCES

RIC ASSIGNMENTS

Request additional alarms	[]	Assign RIC Command Officer	[]
Technical Rescue	[]	Assign additional RIC crews	[]
Additional EMS for RIC	[]	Control Entrances	[]

Teams	Company Assignments	Entry Point	Entry Time	5-min. warning	10-min. exit order	15-min. exit order	Crew Out
RIC #1							
RIC #2							
RIC #3							

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