



Monroe Fire Department

Standard Operating Guidelines Calling a MAYDAY

Purpose: This document establishes guidelines for the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT). The City of Monroe Fire Department recognizes the intense physical and mental demands as well as the extreme risks of emergency responders and establishes this policy as a commitment to maintaining a professional response to aiding downed firefighters at the scene of incidents. These are essential for the short and long term well being of each member and necessary to effectively carry out the mission of the Department. This document establishes guidelines for calling a MAYDAY for Monroe Fire Department members. It additionally outlines tactical considerations for the downed firefighter.

Level of Performance: All firefighters participating in training evolutions, or operating at an incident scene within the jurisdiction of the Monroe Fire Department, will actively participate in, and comply with the requirements of the Calling the MAYDAY

- To better serve the needs of members, the City of Monroe Fire Department will require each of its members to be able to perform the activities in calling a MAYDAY.
- All members shall follow this procedure at any time they think they might be in trouble, even though they believe they will be able to extricate themselves from the situation.
- It is the preference of this department to have a MAYDAY called, then cancelled, rather than calling it too late.

MAYDAY Procedure

- The radio message "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY," is used to indicate a firefighter in trouble. It will be repeated three times as indicated.
- Trouble is to be defined as any firefighter in a structure, or other situation who:
 - has fallen;
 - is trapped by a collapse;
 - becomes low on air with little chance of exiting prior to exhausting the air supply;
 - is caught in any manner and unable to advance or reverse positions; and,
 - is lost, or otherwise trapped.
- Any firefighter may issue a MAYDAY to report a lost firefighter.
- The MAYDAY will be broadcast over the fireground channel, after which the firefighter will activate the PASS device of the SCBA.
- Such issuance of a MAYDAY will alert the Incident Commander, the Rapid Intervention Team, the Incident Safety Officer, and all operating companies that a firefighter is in need of immediate assistance.

- The issuance of a MAYDAY will receive immediate priority radio traffic and the IC will contact the communications center as to the situation, requesting a dedicated communicator to the primary channel.
- Emergency radio traffic will be announced and the emergency radio tone will be sounded
- Suppression and other activities will be placed on an alternative fireground frequency.
- The MAYDAY caller, the Incident Commander, and the RIT shall remain on the original MAYDAY frequency.
- Upon issuance of a MAYDAY, the IC will request a personnel accountability report (PAR).
- Unless otherwise notified by the Incident Commander, operating companies are to stay in their positions and continue their assignments.
- Determination will be made by the IC and the ISO if an evacuation should be conducted.
- The emergency evacuation signal will be the sounding of all on-scene apparatus air horn in a continuous burst for approximately one minute.
- Upon notification of an evacuation, all personnel within the structure or hazard zone shall immediately remove themselves to a safe location.
- All available information will be gathered from the downed firefighter.

Responsibility of the Downed Firefighter

- Immediately upon activation of the MAYDAY, the firefighter will broadcast a LUNAR radio transmission
- The acronym LUNAR means:
 - Location;
 - Unit,
 - Name,
 - Assignment, and,
 - Resources needed.
- Following the transmission of the LUNAR, the firefighter will activate the PASS device inherent in the SCBA.
- Firefighters in any of the listed situations MUST call a MAYDAY even though they successfully extricate themselves shortly thereafter.
- Firefighters who quickly extricate themselves, shall immediately cancel the MAYDAY.
- Reasons for calling a MAYDAY are:
 - entangled;
 - pinned or stuck;
 - falling through anywhere;
 - caught in a flashover;
 - separated from the crew;
 - lost;
 - finding their exit blocked;
 - low air alarm with little probability of exiting prior to exhausting their air supply;
 - sudden illness or pain; or,
 - any other situation requiring assistance.

Termination of the MAYDAY

- Should the firefighter be able to extricate him/herself from the disabling situation, the MAYDAY may be cancelled by way of a radio transmission to the IC.

- Termination will also occur when the firefighter is rescued and removed from the structure.
- Upon termination of the MAYDAY, the IC will notify the communications center and return operations to normal.
- Upon a return to normal, the IC will reassign radio channels for the duration of the operation.
- There shall be no repercussions for calling a MAYDAY and immediately cancelling.

Implementation: This policy has been approved by the Officers of the Monroe Fire Department and the Monroe Common Council. This policy, and all adopted procedures, provide a guideline for operations within the Monroe Fire Department. Adoption of these guidelines in no way restricts the incident commander, department administration or the Monroe Common Council from modifying operations or implementing exceptions to policy in the interest of safety, efficiency and harmony within the organization. It shall remain in effect until withdrawn or modified by the department.

Effective Date: December 2, 2014

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