

SECTION II: FIREGROUND OPERATIONS AND FIRE RELATED DUTIES

2.12 Fire Ground Emergency Procedures

2.12.1 Purpose

This procedure is to be used when calling for assistance and to notify all personnel on the emergency scene that an imminent life-threatening or hazardous situation endangering Firefighters or other emergency responders exists.

2.12.2 Description

1. "MAYDAY" transmissions have priority over "Urgent" transmissions
2. Whenever the terms "Urgent" or "MAYDAY" are transmitted, all units are to maintain radio silence on the fire ground radio channel except for the Incident Commander (IC) and the radio traffic related to the emergency transmission or another emergency situation occurs.
3. Any officer hearing a "MAYDAY" or "Urgent" message and determines it is not being acknowledge by the IC, must acknowledge the message, determine the nature of the emergency and relay the information to the IC.

2.12.3 Procedure "MAYDAY"

A. The "MAYDAY" procedure shall be used to indicate that a life-threatening situation has developed.

B. Confirmed Report from a Firefighter(s) of Imminent Life Threatening Situation

1. When a Firefighter(s) becomes involved in an imminent life-threatening situations, such as:
 - a. trapped/entangled
 - b. disoriented/lost
 - c. collapse situation
 - d. firefighter down
 - e. SCBA failure
 - f. Air Supply
 - g. or other life threatening conditions

The Firefighter(s) shall attempt to notify by a radio, a MAYDAY message. If you are not equipped with a radio, activate your Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) device immediately.

2. The radio message shall begin with; **"MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY."**

3. The IC shall immediately assume control of the fire ground channel.
4. The IC shall acknowledge the MAYDAY and request a LUNAR:
 - L Location (i.e., division 2, Bravo side)
 - U Unit (i.e., 1034 officer)
 - N Name (i.e., F/F Smith)
 - A Air Supply (My tank is half full)
 - R Resources needed (i.e., ceiling fell, need manpower)
 - Include pertinent information of physical condition, status of SCBA and other beneficial information
5. After completing the radio message, the Firefighter's(s) PASS device shall be activated and remain activated, if possible, to draw attention to the area where assistance is needed.
6. Firefighters shall remain together at all times attempting to perform any self-rescue techniques they have been taught. Any change in their location, status, condition, etc., shall be reported via a radio message.
7. When crews are working in the same immediate area as the Firefighter(s) needing assistance, they may make an initial rescue attempt provided that they notify the IC of their location, their current operational duties, and receive direction to attempt the initial rescue. If they are unable to quickly affect the rescue or locate the missing Firefighter(s), they should be directed to return to their operation
8. The IC shall follow procedures set forth in 2.12.4 Command Actions for MAYDAY.

C. Verbal Report of a Missing Firefighter(s)

1. When anyone operating on the fire ground is notified or becomes aware that a Firefighter(s) may be missing, they shall immediately contact the Incident Commander (IC) with a MAYDAY message.
2. The IC shall immediately assume control of the fire ground channel.
3. The Firefighter reporting a missing Firefighter shall provide, if known, the Location, Unit, and Name of the missing Firefighter(s).
4. The IC shall make an announcement to all units identifying the missing Firefighter(s), the last known location and directing anyone knowing the whereabouts of the missing Firefighter(s) to immediately notify the IC.

5. The IC shall confirm, via direct radio contact, that all units from the missing Firefighter's(s) last assignment and/or any unit currently operating in the immediate area are aware the Firefighter is now missing. The Accountability Officer or IC shall complete a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) of these specific units during this radio conversation.
6. If it is confirmed that the Firefighter(s) is missing, the IC shall follow procedures set forth in 2.12.4 Command Actions for Mayday

2.12.4 Procedure Command Actions for Mayday

1. The IC must consider the risk vs. benefit to initiate a rescue attempt.
2. If it is determined that a rescue attempt will be made, the IC shall deploy the Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC), as per SOP 2.10 RIC Operations, to the last known location.
3. A Qualified Leader (preferably a Chief Officer or experienced senior Company Officer) and an additional Safety Officer shall be assigned to the RIC Group/Branch.
4. The IC shall develop a Rescue plan.
5. The IC shall consider switching other fire ground units, with the exception of the RIC, to an alternate radio channel. An announcement shall be made to indicate the channel change.
6. The Accountability Officer or IC shall immediately initiate a PAR as per SOP 2.11 Firefighter Accountability. The IC may withdrawal members from the affected area, if appropriate, for a PAR and/or to redefine the operational plan.
7. The IC shall ensure that the units on the fire ground continue their operational assignments, unless doing so places the Firefighter(s) needing assistance in imminent danger.
8. The IC shall designate a secondary RIC whenever the primary crew is deployed.
9. The IC shall request an additional alarm(s) assignment, additional medical resources, and other resources as needed.
10. The IC shall expand the command organization at a pace that stays ahead of critical needs.
11. The IC shall consider special calling technical rescue teams as needed.

12. When all Firefighters are accounted for, the IC shall notify Gloucester County Communications (GCC) that the MAYDAY has been cleared. GCC shall repeat this information on all operational radio channels.

2.12.5 Procedure "URGENT"

1. The "URGENT" message shall be used to indicate a serious condition or change in conditions, such as:
 1. Signs of structural instability.
 2. Change in fire or smoke conditions that may inhibit firefighter egress or safety.
 3. Loss of water.
 4. Changes in fire conditions that require immediate need for additional resources.
 5. Injury that is not immediately life threatening.
 6. Or any other dangerous condition not listed.
2. The radio message shall begin with; "Urgent, Urgent."
3. The IC shall acknowledge the Urgent message and determine appropriate actions as necessary for the conditions being reported.

2.12.6 Procedure PASS Activation

1. During any operation involving the use of PASS devices, all personnel in the immediate vicinity on the scene shall acknowledge the activation of a PASS device (lasting for greater than fifteen seconds). This shall be done by immediately proceeding to the location of the alarm and confirming the status of the member(s) via radio with the IC.

2.12.67 Procedure Emergency Evacuation

1. If it is determined by the IC that conditions at an incident pose a risk to Firefighters and requires the evacuation of all personnel operating in a hazardous condition, the IC shall notify GCC to advise personnel operating on the fire ground to sound the emergency evacuation signal.
2. GCC shall transmit a 5 second alert tone followed by a message to evacuate the building and for apparatus to sound their emergency devices. The evacuation signal shall consist of a 30 second blast of the air horn or siren. This sequence maybe repeated if necessary.
3. Upon being alerted to an emergency evacuation signal, all personnel shall evacuate the hazardous area to an area of obvious safety. As all personnel evacuate, they shall warn others in the event they have not been alerted by the signal. During an emergency evacuation, it may be necessary to abandon equipment in order to evacuate the hazardous area quickly and safely.

4. All members shall follow procedures set forth in SOP 2.11 Firefighter Accountability and a PAR check shall immediately be initiated.

5. Re-entry of an evacuated hazardous area shall not be done without express permission and direction from the Incident Commander.