

Township Of Jackson, Fire District 3, Station 55
Standard Operating Guidelines

MAYDAY/URGENT

Guideline # 310.08

Date: 3/07 R

PURPOSE

To provide guidance for the issuance of a **"Mayday"** or **"Urgent"** message to the Incident Commander when immediate action is required to rescue or assist emergency personnel.

POLICY

This policy shall pertain to all personnel operating at emergency scenes, as well as during training exercises.

PROCEDURES-MAYDAY

The need may arise during an emergency incident to gain control of the communications frequency to relay or correct a life-threatening situation.

The "Mayday" may be declared by the individual(s) in trouble or someone who identifies an individual(s) in trouble.

Upon transmission of "Mayday" and or "Urgent": **ALL** communications must halt with the exception of the member that transmitted the message and the Incident Commander. Communication will only resume after the Incident Commander has given the order to resume normal communications.

Firefighters shall transmit the "Mayday" via radio by announcing in increments of three "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday" followed by a radio message to the IC identifying themselves along with their location and situation.

Repeat the "Mayday" message until acknowledged.

Dispatch or anyone else who feels this transmission is not being heard should immediately relay this information to command.

Command shall deploy the necessary resources needed to assist with a rescue.

Other members operating on the scene should be aware of the "Mayday" situation. However, they must continue with their assigned tasks. The task they are currently performing may very well limit injury to the person or persons in distress as well as assist the RIT team.

Upon the "Mayday" call a Personal Accountability report shall be initiated.

A "mayday" radio message is only used when a life-threatening situation is developing or has occurred. A "Mayday" can be used in the following situations:

- A imminent collapse is possible
- A structural collapse has occurred
- A firefighter is discovered unconscious
- A firefighter is missing
- A firefighter has a life threatening injury
- A firefighter is trapped or lost
- Any situation not covered above where the firefighter feels threatened

Firefighters who find themselves trapped or lost shall immediately use "MAYDAY" to announce their situation while they continue to find a way out. Delay compromises the amount of survivable time. Firefighters shall also activate their PASS device. Trapped or lost firefighters should give command the following information:

- Who is in distress
- How Many
- Where you think you are (front, rear, floor, etc.)
- Describe surrounding area
- Sounds of nearby activities (vent saws, chopping, etc)
- Situation you are in (low air, trapped, etc.)
- Any other information that might direct the R.I.T to their location.

Example of Mayday radio communication:

Interior Hose Team : *Command from interior hose team
"MAYDAY""MAYDAY""MAYDAY"*

Main Street Command: *All units standby: Go ahead "MAYDAY"*

Interior hose team: *Command, the ceiling has collapsed on the stairway to the second floor and we are cut off.*

Main Street Command: *Command received. Activate your PASS devices, R.I.T. en-route to you.*

Interior hose team: *Received, activating PASS and standing-by for R.I.T. Team.*

Main street Command: *Command received, ALL units maintain radio silence until I receive an ALL CLEAR from R.I.T.*

PROCEDURES-URGENT

An "urgent" radio message is used to report a change in conditions or serious injury that requires medical care.

An Urgent message may be used in the following situations:

- Discovery of a structural problem
- Fire is spreading to exposures
- Loss of water which would endanger firefighters
- A firefighter has been seriously injured and requires EMS
- An interior attack is going to be discontinued and an exterior attack instituted

Example of URGENT radio communication:

5511: *Command from 5511 "URGENT MESSAGE"*

Main Street Command: *Go ahead 5511*

5511: *Command, division "D" wall is beginning to crack and smoke is coming through*

Main Street Command: *Command received*

Approved By:

Date:
District Chief

Date:
Company Chief:

