



Standard Operating Guideline (SOG)

MAYDAY

CAUTION:

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) REQUIRED TO BE WORN DURING THIS SOG:

THIS SOP APPLIES TO THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS (Check all that apply):

- Public Works
- Fire
- Daycare
- Administration
- Facilities
- Recreation

PURPOSE: To ensure that a systematic and disciplined procedure is used to assist or rescue firefighters in life threatening situations.

SCOPE: This Operational Guideline applies to all Department Personnel.

POLICY: The radio broadcast "MAYDAY" will establish that a life threatening situation has developed and that an immediate response is required to fire personnel who may be trapped, in imminent danger, or in immediate need of assistance.



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PROCEDURE:

1. Should firefighters find themselves threatened by grave or imminent danger and require immediate assistance due to entrapment or similar circumstances or, become aware that other firefighters are in those circumstances, they will broadcast a "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY" as a call for help, indicating the nature of the emergency. All Department personnel should be aware that the triple "MAYDAY" broadcast is a call for help only, not an order to evacuate or to cease ongoing fireground operations.
2. When a fire fighter makes a MAYDAY call they will follow the LIPA procedure:
 - a. Location – Report where they are
 - b. Identification – Report who they are
 - c. Problem – Report why they are calling a MAYDAY
 - d. Action – report what action they need
3. Upon receipt of the triple "MAYDAY" broadcast, the Incident Commander will initiate immediate action to provide assistance to the firefighters in distress. The Incident Commander will consider:
 - a. Announcement of the radio message "EMERGENCY TRAFFIC".
 - b. Deployment of the Rapid Intervention Team to assist, if a RIT has been established at the incident.
 - c. Dispatch of an additional alarm to the emergency scene.
 - d. Dispatch of an additional response by the Ambulance Service.
 - e. Dispatch of an additional Rescue apparatus to the scene, if the additional alarm has not already done so.
4. Upon receipt of the "MAYDAY" broadcast all non-emergency radio communications are to cease immediately. Only the Incident Commander and personnel directly involved in resolving the MAYDAY initiate any further radio communications.
5. When the firefighters are no longer in distress, the Incident Commander will communicate that the "MAYDAY" request is complete. They will do so with the phrase "Distress Traffic Ended".
6. As soon as possible, all personnel involved with the MAYDAY will fill out an incident report and interview with the Firechief about the circumstances surrounding the MAYDAY. If there were no injuries then this is to be done at the hall after call BEFORE going home.
7. Firechief will review incident reports and deliver a debrief about the situation to the firefighters involved. The debrief will outline the circumstances surrounding the MAYDAY and any plans to prevent future situations.