



Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Volunteer Fire Department

S.O.P Number: 600	Effective Date: October 1, 2010
Section: 608	
Subject: Mayday Parameters	
By Order of the Fire Chief: Steven Paine	

Section 608 - Mayday Parameters

Purpose

To establish criteria for which a “Mayday” will be called. On scene operations will shift from mitigation to rescue.

Scope

All Lauderdale by the Sea fire Department personnel shall adhere to these guidelines to maximize the safety of all members during emergency situations.

Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of all members to ensure that these procedures are employed and observed at all times.

Definitions

1. Mayday
 - a. The term “Mayday” shall be used whenever a fire-rescue crewmember or unit encounters an immediately perilous situation such as a downed, lost, or trapped firefighter. The “Mayday” call shall receive the highest communication priority from dispatch, Incident Command (IC), and all operating units.
 - b. When a unit reports an emergency by announcing their unit identifier followed by “Mayday”, the incident commander shall gather information confirming there is a problem and immediately advise dispatch to initiate the “Mayday” protocol. Dispatch shall activate an emergency alert tone and advise all units to standby for “Mayday Traffic”. Dispatch will then receive all emergency information from the IC and repeat such. The IC shall then request the appropriate assistance to mitigate the “Mayday” announcement. Dispatch and the IC Safety Officer should control all airtime. All non-essential radio traffic shall be disallowed. Units assigned to the initial incident may be reassigned to an alternative channel until the “Mayday Emergency” has been mitigated.



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- c. In the event the IC or dispatch does not acknowledge the “Mayday” announcement, any available monitoring unit shall respond to the request to offer assistance. Anytime a “Mayday” request is initiated, a Personnel Accountability Report is required. Additionally, all non-essential incident operations should be suspended and a Rapid Intervention Crew deployed if necessary.

2. Emergency Traffic Procedure

- a. The term “Emergency Traffic” shall be utilized whenever a command officer, unit, or crewmember is confronted with a situation or information that needs immediate control of radio communications. Such situations include anticipation of an impending emergency, catastrophic event, or other situation that places firefighters in danger.
- b. In the event “Emergency Traffic” is announced, dispatch shall immediately initiate an emergency alert tone followed by “all units stand by for emergency traffic.” At such time the unit or crewmember requesting traffic shall have priority communication. All personnel shall direct efforts to support the needs and requests of the “Emergency Traffic” call. As early as possible though not interrupting the “Emergency Traffic” request, the IC shall be informed of the current situation.
- c. Under no circumstances shall the term “Emergency Traffic” be used in place of the “Mayday” call. Upon securing the incident reference to the “Emergency Traffic”, dispatch shall notify all units by initiating an emergency alert tone followed by “all units may resume normal radio traffic”.

Mayday Parameters

- A. Should any of the following occur while operating in an IDLH (Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health), Mayday procedures will be initiated.

1. Working Fires

- a. Collapse of a roof or floor
- b. Firefighter lost or trapped
- c. Flashover
- d. Discovery of another downed firefighter
- e. Separated from crew and low on air
- f. Tangled, pinned or stuck with a low pressure alarm
- g. Tangled, pinned or stuck and unable to self-extricate within 60 seconds
- h. Change in fire conditions that causes the inability to make immediate access to a known egress
- i. Low air alarm activates and there is no exit within 60 seconds or firefighter is not on a hose line of 200 feet or less.
- j. Firefighter judgment



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2. Confined Space/Trench

- a. Recognized change in mental or physical state (i.e. Dizziness, headache, nausea, numbness/tingling).
- b. Suspected change in the mental or physical status of another firefighter operating in the IDLH.
- c. Any situation requiring the use of the escape bottle.
- d. Discovery of another downed firefighter.
- e. Collapse causing any blockage of the egress.
- f. Collapse in the confined space with or without trapping firefighters.
- g. Firefighter judgment.

3. Hazardous Materials

- a. Recognized change in mental or physical state (i.e. Dizziness, headache, nausea, numbness/tingling)
- b. Suspected change in the mental or physical status of another firefighter operating in the IDLH.
- c. Discovery of another downed firefighter
- d. Collapse of any confined space with or without trapping firefighters.
- e. Drastic change in the nature or the speed of a hazmat release while firefighters are operating in the IDLH.
- f. Any change or collapse that impedes the ability of firefighters to make a quick egress.
- g. Firefighter judgment.

B. When a “Mayday” is declared, IC will acknowledge it and Operations shall shift from a mitigation mode to a rescue mode.

C. IC will be responsible for the initiation of emergency procedures and RIT Standard Operating Procedures.

D. IC shall contact Fire communications and request an additional alarm assignment