

MAYDAY - MANAGEMENT

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- A strong Command presence is KEY to maintaining fireground discipline.
- Crews shall maintain operational and radio discipline.
- Remember multiple MAYDAYS may occur.
- After the MAYDAY is complete, conduct a PAR to obtain crew status and integrity.
- Treated as an incident within the incident.

STANDARDS:

1. Command must effectively display their presence, crews must coordinate their change in assignment with their supervisor, and radio discipline will never be more crucial.
 - Assign FF rescue activities to Division Sup if in place. Beginning with help order (Protocol 2 b)
 - If a Division Sup is not in place, consider assigning one to either manage rescue activities or other critical factors on the incident.
2. Units working near the downed firefighter, or a member of the same crew may be in the best position to perform the rescue. **This action shall maintain operational and radio discipline.** Self-Deployment may cause a waste of resources and prolong rescue efforts.
3. Command shall conduct a risk/benefit assessment:
 - a. If the Firefighter can be made safe and placed on air, then Rescue crews can extricate the Firefighter in a prudent and timely manner.
 - b. If the Firefighter is trapped and not in a safe area Command must make strategic decisions and continue to consider actions that reduces the risk to the greatest number of personnel.
 - c. If the Firefighter is not savable no additional personnel shall be risked.

PROTOCOL:

1. MAYDAY is called.
2. Command will respond to the MAYDAY:
 - a. Copies WHO, and WHAT UNIT, the CAN report. Maintain radio contact long enough to get sufficient information to initiate an adequate rescue plan.
 - b. Start help order immediately.
 - i. Communicate self-rescue techniques, including calming actions ("calm down and control your breathing").
 - ii. Use the mayday firefighter's own company to assist with the rescue.
 - iii. Use a company already in the hazard zone to assist with the rescue.
 - iv. If assigned, use RIT company located outside of the hazard zone.
 - v. If RIT is not assigned, use the On-Deck company located outside of the hazard zone.

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3. Emergency traffic (use emergency tones); Command **ANNOUNCES WHO, and WHAT UNIT, and Pertinent Information** to the fire ground.
4. Command announces a plan to include: Firefighter rescue tactical action and Allocating Units.
5. Command can Assign Divisions or Groups, and Alternate Frequencies on complex incidents.
6. Command requests additional alarms, EMS, Special Units, etc.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

- In most cases it is preferred to leave Mayday **and** Operations on the primary TAC Channel.
 - **Unless critical to Mayday or Fire Ground operations, all operating companies will maintain radio silence once a Mayday has been transmitted**
- Dispatch can only monitor TAC-1, MFR Tac-R, North County, and Medford Primary.
- 2 frequencies are the limit that each resource can monitor.
- If a Rescue Group is designated, IC may opt to have them operate on TAC-6

COMMAND:

- Consider expanding your Incident Command Team to include a PIO and a liaison for family members of firefighters.
- Discontinue **"Firefighter Rescue Tactical Action"** when the rescue is complete or when discontinuing the rescue efforts. Broadcast the transition of the incident and conduct a PAR when discontinuing firefighter rescue strategy.

EXAMPLE:

Downed Firefighter: "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY Merrill E22, roof collapse 2nd floor, egress cut off, ladder to the Charlie/David corner for window egress, air 3000"

Command: "Merrill I copy your Mayday, I understand your egress is cut off from a roof collapse on the second floor, your air is at 3000, and you need a ladder to the window on the Charlie/David corner. Control your breathing, shelter in place, we are getting you a ladder.

Command: E22 are you able to reach Merrill to assist with his rescue?

E22: Affirmative we can reach him, will need to exit via ladder and assistance getting Merrill down, our egress is cut off.

Command: E15 (On Deck) throw a ladder, second floor Charlie/David corner to assist Merrill and E22 with egress.

Command: Command has emergency traffic. We have a mayday from Merrill on the second floor, his egress is cut off by roof collapse, rescue operations are underway. BC 2 will assume Alpha Division and continue Fire Control and Primary Search with E21 and E14. Maintain radio discipline.

Command: Central from command...dispatch a second alarm to this incident and a mercy unit code 3. Consider PIO and family liaison.

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