

MAYDAY - CALLING

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

MAYDAY is defined as anytime a firefighter(s) cannot safely exit any IDLH hazard zone- not exclusive to structure fires.

- You may have a very brief opportunity, be decisive and call it.
- Take action to save-yourself!
- Call "CODE 13" if your life is in danger and you are under duress and not able to freely communicate because of a threat.
- DO NOT UNKEY THE MIC AFTER "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY" - Get your CAN report out ASAP!

PROTOCOL:

1. Announce "**MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY- CAN**", on the operational channel.
 - While still keying the microphone, give a CAN report that includes:
 - Who-your identity and unit
 - What-caused the condition of the MAYDAY
 - Where-current location, last known location, surroundings
 - Needs-the needs that will help resolve the MAYDAY
2. Command will copy the MAYDAY and CAN report.
3. If command does not respond to you, **you have options**:
 - Re-broadcast on the operational channel.
 - Generate emergency tones on the operational channel followed by your MAYDAY.
 - Switch Frequencies to a dispatch channel and broadcast your MAYDAY again. ECSO will notify command.
 - Use your Firefighter Down Button. The Portable Radio will broadcast a signal via SFM to ECSO. ECSO will notify command
4. Calm down, begin self-rescue, and conserve your air.
5. Activate your PASS if appropriate
6. **Maintain radio contact with the IC or Division supervisor**

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MAYDAY – CALLING – Cont.

TRIGGER POINTS FOR CALLING A MAYDAY

- Involved in a collapse or fall through a roof or floor and are unable to self-extricate.
- Caught in a flashover or about to be burned over.
- Zero visibility, no contact with hose or rope and you don't know where the exit is.
- Tangled, pin or stuck and you are unable to self-extricate.
- Primary exit is blocked and you are not able to find a secondary exit.
- Low air alarm is sounding and you are unable to find an exit.
- Separated from your crew and unable to find an exit or teammate.
- Significant medical/traumatic event and your condition may worsen by self-rescue.
- You can and should call a MAYDAY for another Firefighter or crew when you witness a significant event, and you are not sure they are OK.
- Follow 8-line protocol for injuries and significant events in the wildland environment.
- Shelter deployment
- Safety zones and escape routes are compromised by fire behavior or erratic weather.