

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY RURAL FIRE BOARD
GUIDELINES AND STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

SUBJECT: WHEN AND HOW TO CALL A MAYDAY

This guideline provides a basic philosophy on when and how to call a mayday.

GUIDELINES:

I. Mayday Parameters:

- a. Before a firefighter can call a MAYDAY he/she needs to know when they should. The following is a list of some of the reasons to issue a MAYDAY.
 - i. If you become lost or disoriented inside a structure.
 - ii. If you become trapped, stuck, or entangled.
 - iii. If you are running low on air.
 - iv. If you become injured or exhausted and are unable to exit .
 - v. If you become separated from your crew.
 - vi. If you lose contact with the hose or search line.
 - vii. If you are caught in a collapse.
 - viii. If you fall from something or through something (floor, roof, etc.)
 - ix. If your partner experience any of these and cannot call a MAYDAY then you should call one for them.
 - x. If you become cut off from exits by fire.
 - xi. If you have an equipment failure (PPE).

II. Mayday Procedures:

- a. Declare “MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY” over radio.
- b. The IC should then stop all fireground radio traffic and advise all units there is a MAYDAY. This should prompt all other personnel to stay off the radio and select another frequency.
- c. If a MAYDAY was given, Central Dispatch will refrain from any radio traffic unless the MAYDAY has not been acknowledged by personnel on scene. At that time Central Dispatch will advise the Incident Commander of the situation and then stand by until they are needed.
- d. All team leaders should conduct a (PAR) to insure their personnel are accounted for.

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e. The unit calling MAYDAY should relay information to the IC and RIT by utilizing the “LUNAR” acronym.

L-Location

U-Unit

N-Name

A-Assignment

R-Resources

f. The unit calling MAYDAY should try to remain calm in order to give good accurate information. Including last known location, what was your assignment; what side did you enter the building on etc.

g. The MAYDAY firefighter should activate his/her PASS device once the radio transmission has been given. This will help the incoming RIT to locate the quicker.

h. Once information has been received the IC will then activate RIT to search for the firefighter(s) giving the MAYDAY.

i. The lost/trapped firefighter(s) can also help himself by making tapping Noises with tools, turning on flashlights, attempting to find walls, doors, and windows. If the situation changes he/she should advise the IC immediately so the RIT can be updated.

j. Radio traffic at this time should be kept to emergency traffic only by the IC, lost/trapped firefighter(s), and RIT.

k. Once the MAYDAY has been cleared, the IC will call “ALL CLEAR” over the radio and all units will go back to normal operations.

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k. Once the MAYDAY has been cleared, the IC will call “ALL CLEAR” over the radio and all units will go back to normal operations.

III. Mayday Radio Procedures:

a. The MAYDAY radio procedures are just tools that are used in an emergency situation. Learn self-rescue techniques, stay with your crew at all times, and try to avoid getting yourself in situations that may require assistance. This may limit your chance of ever having to use a MAYDAY.