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## MAYDAY SOG

### **SCOPE**

This SOG addresses the minimum requirements and guidelines for call MAYDAY. This SOG addresses when, why and how to call MAYDAY as well as what constitutes a firefighter emergency.

### **PURPOSE**

This SOG outlines the parameters and procedures for declaring an emergency and provides guidance to the firefighter for when and how to call MAYDAY.

### **DEFINITIONS**

**SHALL** – Indicates a mandatory requirement.

**Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)** – Documents that help establish how an organization will operate and how its members are expected to carry out specific duties outlined in general terms.

### **REFERENCES**

N.F.P.A. 1500 Chapter 6

N.F.P.A. 1561 Chapter 4

C.F.R. 1910.120

C.F.R. 1910.134 Chapter 3 (I)

C.F.R. 1910.156

### **GUIDELINES**

#### **TRAINING:**

- Firefighters shall receive annual training and validate capability to call MAYDAY. This training will instruct or review procedures for declaring an emergency and how to transmit a MAYDAY over the radio.
- Training will include the MAYDAY call, LUNAR and what situations constitute a firefighter emergency.

#### **GUIDELINES FOR RIT OPERATIONS:**

**During fireground or EMS operations, firefighters may transmit a MAYDAY whenever they are in distress or feel they are experiencing an emergency that may be life threatening.** Situations

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fitting this bill range from emergencies experienced while operating within a fire building to emergencies experienced while at an EMS scene where a patient or person becomes belligerent.

In the event of a firefighter emergency (lost, trapped, out of air, disoriented, medical emergency while operating within IDLH, belligerent person during an EMS call), the IC shall be notified immediately. In the case of an EMS emergency, city or county dispatch will be notified. The Firefighter(s) experiencing the emergency shall transmit MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY three (3) times on the assigned operating frequency or the fireground operating frequency. At this point, it is critical that the distressed firefighter(s) pause and wait for acknowledgement from fire dispatch (county and/or city) or the IC. If the emergency call is not acknowledged, continue transmitting the MAYDAY call until acknowledged. Once acknowledged, the distressed firefighter will transmit LUNAR.

**The firefighter(s) experiencing the emergency will transmit LUNAR:**

**L** – The exact or best known **LOCATION** of the firefighter experiencing the emergency. This location should be transmitted in accordance with (IAW) the ICS and identify, at a minimum, the division and closest known wall (e.g., Division 2C). If at all possible, firefighter(s) should consider identifying the quadrant he/she/they are in (e.g., Division 2 C-D) to narrow the IC's and the RIT's focus for the rescue effort.

**U** – Is the parent **UNIT** of the distressed firefighter (e.g., Station 21 or Hope Mills Fire Department).

**N** – Is the distressed firefighter's **NAME** (e.g., Kevin Murphy or Murphy)

**A** – Is the fireground **ASSIGNMENT** the distressed firefighter is assigned to (e.g., Fire Attack, Vent, Salvage etc). If the firefighter is assigned to a fireground operating system that has a corresponding division, this should be included in this area (e.g., Fire Attack 2 or Search 2).

**R** – Identifies the required **RESOURCES** to affect firefighter rescue. This is an assessment by the distressed firefighter(s) on what's needed to assist him/her/them (e.g., air bags, rotary saw, ladder to Division 2 C-D).

The IC will deploy the RIT IAW the information received from the LUNAR report.

City or county dispatch will dispatch the police to the emergency location.

**Use of the emergency button (orange button).** SPFD portable radios are equipped with an emergency button. When depressed, an emergency tone will be transmitted and received at city or county dispatch depending upon which frequency you are operating. Firefighters experiencing an emergency have the option to utilize this button to alert the IC or dispatch that they have an emergency.

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All firefighting operations will be switched to another fireground frequency. This frequency will initially be position one (1) or position sixteen (16) in the portable radios. All SPFD Radios are equipped with Fire Emergency channels in position # 1 & # 16.

### **Reprisal or Repercussions for Calling MAYDAY**

**There are no reprisals,** repercussions or disciplinary actions for calling MAYDAY.

Firefighters will not be reprimanded for calling MAYDAY for situations that may not be considered emergencies by others. If the firefighter feels he/she has an emergency situation that places his/her life in jeopardy, they are encouraged to transmit MAYDAY.

Firefighter emergencies or emergency conditions must be viewed similar to those encountered by civilian airliners. Many times a civilian airliner will declare an emergency due to a faulty warning light or a malfunctioning gauge. An emergency is declared in accordance with the parameters created by the situation. Once safely on the ground and determination is made that an emergency situation did not exist and a malfunction was the cause, no disciplinary action is taken against the crew for exercising the emergency procedures. The same holds true for firefighter emergencies. We will not take disciplinary action against any firefighter who declares an emergency when he or she feels they are in danger.

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