

# Orchard Farm Fire Protection District Standard Operating Procedure

Division: 200      Emergency Operations  
Section: 202      Fire & Rescue  
Subject: 202.14      Mayday Operations



Supersedes: N/A

Approved By: 

Date: 05/22/2013

Date Last Reviewed: N/A

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## PURPOSE:

To define the District's response plan for and means of notifying others of an on-scene true emergency

## RESPONSIBILITY:

All District Personnel

## PROCEDURES:

There may be a time in a firefighter's career when the unexpected can and will occur. This could be the result of being lost, trapped, injured, equipment failure or any other unexpected event which will require the assistance of the rapid intervention team. The firefighter must call for help immediately after a problem has been recognized. Many times firefighters wait too long to call for help, therefore, decreasing their chance of survival. Call for help early. You can always cancel the help if you correct the problem before they arrive. Firefighters shall use the term "**Mayday**" if assistance is needed from the rapid intervention team. This term shall be used solely for these instances. All firefighters should train giving a mayday message so it will become second nature if ever utilized in real-life.

### Mayday Parameters:

Before a firefighter can call a mayday they need to know when they should. The following is a list of some of the reasons to issue a mayday.

- If you become lost or disoriented inside a structure
- If you become trapped, stuck, or entangled
- If you are running low on air
- If you become injured or exhausted and are unable to exit
- If you become separated from your crew
- If you lose contact with the hose, search line
- If you are caught in a collapse
- If you fall from something or through something (floor, roof, etc.)

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- If your partner experiences any of these and cannot call a mayday then you should call one for them
- If you become cut off from exits by fire
- If you have an equipment failure (PPE)

### **Procedure for missing, trapped, or firefighter in distress**

- Declare “Mayday, Mayday, Mayday” over the radio.
- The Mayday transmission may be given by the firefighter(s) themselves or by anyone that suspects that there are missing or trapped firefighter(s).
- Once acknowledged by Command, the MAYDAY shall be followed by a report to include (if known) crew or personnel identification, location, conditions, air, and needs. If it helps, the acronym LUNAR may be used by firefighters transmitting a MAYDAY.

**L** – Location = “Bravo side, rear”

**U** – Unit = “Engine 1”

**N** – Name = “Firefighter Smith”

**A** – Assignment = “Primary Search”

**R** – Resources needed = “Fallen through the floor, in the basement”

### **\*Manually activate PASS device to full alert mode. Example:**

*“MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY, Firefighter Smith to Command.”*

*“Command”*

*“This is Engine 1, Firefighter Smith. I have fallen through the bedroom floor to the basement in the B/C corner of the house. My leg may be broken and I have 800 lbs. of air remaining. Requesting immediate assistance.”*

*“Command to confirm by repeating Mayday.”*

- The lost/trapped firefighter can also help 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.

### **INCIDENT COMMANDER**

The IC should then stop all fire ground radio traffic and advise all units there is a mayday. This should prompt all other personnel to stay off the radio unless absolutely necessary. After the emergency traffic notification is received and acknowledged, the IC will notify all companies of the MAYDAY. The IC will then activate the RIT and assign any other appropriate crews to the rescue operations. Crews not assigned to the Rescue Operations by Command will continue their assigned functions and must resist the temptation to freelance.

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### **“MAYDAY” Command Tactical Considerations**

1. Conduct PAR/Roll Call on all crews
2. Declare Emergency Traffic
3. Identify MAYDAY company/person (name, company, problem, and location)
4. Deploy RIT/RIC Team
5. Consider moving Fire Operations to another radio channel.
6. Request additional alarm(s)/resources including ambulances and paramedics
7. The IC will maintain Fire Ground Operations
8. Assign Safety Officer to Rescue Group
9. Reinforce firefighting positions. Consider deploying additional hand lines
10. Maintain radio and crew discipline
11. Consider opening all doors and windows
12. Ventilate and maintain tenable environment; provide lighting as required
13. Consider expanding command structure
14. Establish Treatment/Transportation Groups (request additional ambulances and paramedic
15. Coordinate and control search and rescue efforts
16. Assess need for Technical Rescue Teams
17. Maintain structural stability of building

### **Cancellation of a MAYDAY**

A MAYDAY situation may be cancelled when the firefighter has been rescued or the situation has been resolved. Communication must be made to all units of the MAYDAY cancellation.

A PAR/Roll Call must be done immediately.