


SOG# 502-13	Standard Operating Guideline	Safety		
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cumberland Road Fire Department Inc.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mayday</p>	Approved By Kenneth E. Hall		
		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Effective Date</td> <td>Revised Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 6, 2016</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Effective Date	Revised Date
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**PURPOSE:**

The job of a firefighter is dangerous by nature. The safety of all personnel at emergency incidents must be a constant consideration during incident management. Situations will occur during emergency operations where firefighter’s lives will be jeopardized. This document provides a written procedure for identifying when to declare and how to declare a Firefighter “MAYDAY”.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- MAYDAY- A universal distress call indicating human life is endangered and immediate help is needed.
- PAR- Personnel Accountability Roll Call (PAR) - A verification of well-being report of all personnel operating at an emergency incident.
- RIC- Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC)-Personnel assembled to provide a readily available resource to the Incident Commander (I.C.), in the event a rescue crew is needed for Firefighters.

**SCOPE:**


The following guidelines have been established for identifying and declaring MAYDAY. This SOP should be used as a reference for on scene operations involving a MAYDAY and identifying resources needed for proper scene management.

**PROCEDURE:**

**WHEN TO DECLARE A MAYDAY**

A “MAYDAY” shall be declared for any sudden life threatening occurrence that may injure, trap, disorient, or distress emergency personnel during an incident. Any witness to the event can declare a “MAYDAY” if one has not been declared by those directly involved. Specific parameters that warrant a “MAYDAY” include but are not limited to the following:

- A fall through a floor or roof of a structure.
- A building collapse
- Firefighter lost with no line or direction out.
- Firefighter trapped by debris or entangled / stuck in an unknown object.
- An activated low air alarm and / or an activated PASS device.

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### DECLARING A MAYDAY

To declare a “MAYDAY”, the person or persons in distress shall transmit a verbal message of “**MAYDAY-MAYDAY-MAYDAY**” (if possible) to Command on the assigned tactical channel. This radio transmission should continue every 3-5 seconds until acknowledged by Command, and then they shall activate their P.A.S.S.

### RESPONSE TO A “MAYDAY” CALL

Upon receipt of a MAYDAY, Command shall advise all units to **Stand By** and to **Stop Transmitting**. Command shall immediately knowledge the MAYDAY and request identification of the unit / individual declaring the MAYDAY. Once the unit declaring the MAYDAY has been identified, Command shall request the following information from the unit declaring MAYDAY:

- Location (if known)
- Unit
- Name(s) of individual or individuals involved
- Air Supply remaining and injuries if known
- Resources needed for rescue

Once the location and situation of the unit declaring MAYDAY has been obtained by Command, RIC shall be activated.

After RIC has been activated to the firefighter(s) needing help, Command shall advise all units except for **RIC** and the **firefighter(s) declaring MAYDAY** to switch to the emergency channel for continuing incident operations. The emergency channel will be 1 or 16 and can be utilized by turning the dial fully left or right on the portable radio. This new radio channel assignment will remain in effect until the MAYDAY has been terminated. **RIC** and the **firefighter(s) declaring MAYDAY** shall remain on the original tactical channel.


Command shall advise County/City Communications of the MAYDAY situation and the tactical channel change in radio assignments.

Command shall request a “MAYDAY/additional ALARM” assignment from County/City Communications to assist with resources needed for the MAYDAY.

**Command shall also request an Ambulance to the scene for standby.**

Command shall request a PAR be conducted by all Company Officers of their personnel and report their results to Command.

All activities relating to the MAYDAY shall be reported to County/City Communications for incident reporting and time log purposes. These activities include: downed firefighter located, firefighter

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removed from structure, cancel and/or release of equipment assigned to the MAYDAY Alarm and termination of the MAYDAY.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

It shall be the responsibility of the I.C. to ensure firefighter safety is constantly monitored during incident operations.

It shall be the responsibility of the I.C. to notify the perspective Chief and or his/her designee of the department in the event of a serious or life threatening injury to a firefighter.

It shall be the responsibility of the I.C. to submit an incident statement to the perspective Chief and or his/her designee anytime a MAYDAY is declared.

It shall be the responsibility of all Company Officers to ensure that all personnel understand and adhere to the policy.