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S.O.P. #: Tactical Operations #09

SUBJECT: MAYDAY Procedures

DIVISION: Emergency Operations

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Objective: To provide a uniform means of notifying the Incident Commander that one or more Fire Service personnel are lost, trapped, or ill in a life-threatening environment.

Section 1: Purpose

1. The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures to follow during a MAYDAY situation.
2. Fire Service personnel should remember that early notification of your situation is the key to survival. Personnel should not hesitate to notify Command that they are in need of assistance.
3. The intent of this policy is to make abundantly clear the need for rescue of fire service personnel. This policy delineates the difference between other terms used such as Emergency Traffic, urgent, and others that should not be confused with Fire Service personnel needing rescue.

Section 2: Definition

1. A MAYDAY is a special term, which indicates that one or more Fire Service personnel are in a life-threatening situation and need immediate help.
2. **MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY** will be the radio term used to notify the Incident Commander that personnel are lost or trapped, or in need of immediate medical assistance within the environment where LIFE THREATENING CONDITIONS (S) may exist.
3. Examples of a MAYDAY situation include; lost or disoriented, sudden chest pains or trouble breathing in a fire suppression operation, low air alarm with no egress point, trapped in a collapse, etc.
4. When a PASS Device has been activated for more than 1 minute within the area where Life Threatening Condition(s) may exist, it will be treated as a distress signal and Command will determine the need for a MAYDAY.
5. The activation of the Emergency Button on the portable radio from a **unit on location**, will be treated as a MAYDAY until proven otherwise.
6. Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) – A report given by a company officer or member indicating whether or not the officer or member has visual contact with the remaining members of their crew.

Section 3: MAYDAY Transmittal Procedure

1. Any personnel becoming lost, disoriented, or trapped that can contact Command shall utilize the term **MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY**.
2. Personnel declaring a MAYDAY shall provide the following information if possible. The acronym **LUNAR** shall be utilized:
  - Location
  - Unit Number
  - Name
  - Assignment
  - Resources needed for rescue
3. If possible personnel should activate their Emergency Button on the portable radio.
4. Once personnel have called a MAYDAY and provided the information needed (LUNAR), they will activate their PAS Device manually, and intermittently.
5. In the event personnel are unable to communicate via radio, they shall activate the PASS Device **manually**, and intermittently, for periods of at least 1 minute (this will establish a MAYDAY vs. the pre-alert for inactivity).

Section 4: Command Procedures

1. Upon receipt of a MAYDAY **only** radio traffic specific to the MAYDAY situation shall occur. The Incident Commander will control all radio communication. In the event critical information must be passed to Command, personnel may provide that information.
2. The Incident Commander shall announce or cause to be announced the MAYDAY situation.
3. In the event a MAYDAY is received via radio and the personnel needing assistance can and have provided the LUNAR information, an immediate PAR will not be necessary. However, in the event personnel are not able to communicate the LUNAR information, the Incident Commander will conduct a PAR of all units functioning in the Life Threatening environment.
4. Once a MAYDAY has been declared, Company Commanders will conduct an immediate PAR of their personnel. The only notification necessary to Command from Company Officers will be if they are missing personnel.
5. If deemed necessary, the Incident Commander may utilize additional Tactical Talkgroups for non-MAYDAY/RIT operations. It should be noted that at no time should the crew involved in the MAYDAY be switched to an alternate Talkgroup.
6. Command shall provide periodic Brief Progress Reports to Dispatch to include the RIT operation(s).
7. Command shall notify Dispatch of the conclusion of the MAYDAY event.

Section 5: Dispatch response to a MAYDAY

1. Dispatch will assign an additional alarm to the incident. This will be either a second alarm or an additional alarm, designated to be resources that will be available for the incident commander to deploy.
2. Dispatch shall assign a specific Operator to monitor the Talkgroup during a MAYDAY event.
3. In the event a MAYDAY is declared or a crew involved in the MAYDAY inadvertently communicates on an unassigned Talkgroup, Command shall be advised and the dispatcher will remain with the MAYDAY crew on that Talkgroup.
4. Dispatch shall immediately notify Command of a Radio Emergency Button activation from any unit on the scene. Dispatch will provide all the pertinent radio designation information to the incident commander.