

## CHAPTER II OPERATIONS

### SUBJECT 2 Emergency Operations

#### TOPIC 8 Mayday and Emergency Condition Declaration at Emergency Incidents

##### A. **Scope:**

This procedure is intended to insure that all members operating at an emergency scene are aware that an emergency situation on the scene is imminent or has already occurred.

This procedure will outline the difference between the terms “Mayday” and “Emergency”

##### B. **Definitions:**

The following definitions will be used to alert members operating on the fireground:

**“MAYDAY”** - To be used when a firefighter is in danger.

A firefighter must declare a MAYDAY when confronted by, but not limited to the following situations:

- 1.) Injured and in need of immediate assistance or unable to reach a safe location under their own power.
- 2.) Lost / Disoriented
- 3.) Trapped / Entangled and unable to exit structure before expending air supply.
- 4.) Low on Air / Low air alarm sounding in conjunction with any other item listed
- 5.) “MAYDAY” will also be declared by other members and/or RAT Team that locate a member(s) in any of the above situations.

**“Emergency”** - To be used when an emergency is imminent, or has already happened, such as:

- 1.) A building collapse
- 2.) A wall collapse
- 3.) A roof collapse
- 4.) Rapidly changing fire conditions
- 5.) Water supply interruption which puts firefighters in a precarious position
- 6.) Any circumstance that can seriously injure a firefighter
- 7.) A collapse potential that needs to be investigated
- 8.) Immediate evacuation of the building necessary for any of the above or for any circumstance the incident commander deems necessary.

---

9.) Requesting additional alarm

**C. Mayday Procedure**

The following procedure will be used to alert firefighters on the emergency scene of a Mayday.

1. To clear all radio traffic on the fireground frequency, the firefighter requesting the Mayday shall:
  - a. The firefighter shall repeat the word “MAYDAY” three times followed by the **nature of the Mayday, location, identification and Company number of the firefighter(s) involved if possible and what, if any plans they have to remove themselves from the situation.** (Example - “Mayday, Mayday, Mayday, - Firefighter Down - Second Floor - Firefighter Doe from Engine 22) Any Fire Company finding a firefighter down shall declare a Mayday and the mayday information shall be repeated including the manner of removal from the structure. (Example - “Mayday - Mayday - Mayday - Firefighter Down - Lieutenant from Engine 22 - We will be coming out the rear door”)
  - b. The firefighter shall then manually activate their PASS device.
2. At this time the **Incident Commander** will:
  - a. Notify all Companies on the scene of the “Mayday” situation.
  - b. Notify Dispatch of the “Mayday” situation.
  - c. Order all Companies to switch their radios to the Mayday channel (channel 16 in their current Fire Ground Talk Group) for routine fire ground messages. The original fire ground channel will only be used for the firefighter(s) involved in the MAYDAY, RAT Chief, Rapid Assistance Teams and RAT Assist Teams.
3. **Dispatch** will:
  - a. Transmit an additional alarm.
  - b. Dispatch an additional District Chief to replace the second on-scene District Chief who has become the RAT Chief.
  - c. Dispatch an additional RAT Company.
  - d. Page the 40-hr staff (All Call).

**D. Emergency Alert Procedure**

This procedure shall be used to alert firefighters on the fireground of an emergency condition.

1. To clear all radio traffic on the fireground frequency, the firefighter requesting the emergency shall repeat the word "Emergency" three times. At this time no other radio traffic shall be transmitted until the

---

**nature, location and type of emergency** is identified. The "Emergency" declaration shall be reserved for situations on the fireground presenting imminent danger to firefighters. (I.E. Potential building collapse energized electrical wires posing an electrocution hazard, catastrophic loss of water supply with firefighters inside the structure, etc.)

2. The Incident Commander upon hearing the Emergency Declaration shall immediately repeat the emergency traffic as well as orders to rectify or retreat from the situation. (Example - "Emergency, Emergency, Emergency - All companies operating at 123 Main St. retreat!")

**Note:**

The "MAYDAY" declaration is reserved for only those situations when a firefighter is in peril as described above. When a hazardous condition exists the "Emergency" declaration shall be utilized.