



City of Longview Fire Department Operational Guidelines

Operational Guideline Name: MAYDAY Procedures	Effective Date: 01/01/2009
Supersedes: n/a	Approved by: Chief Daryl McDaniel

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this procedure is to identify the roles and responsibilities of all the parties involved at an incident where a “May-Day” has been transmitted.

II. SCOPE:

These procedures shall govern “May-Day” actions at all emergency incidents.

III. RESPONSIBILITY:

Incident Commander: Command will maintain an awareness of the location of fire fighters on the fireground primarily through assignments and the accountability system. Command shall respond to a "May-Day" by implementing a rescue plan for the fire fighter(s).

Company Officer: Company Officers will maintain situational awareness and maintain direct supervision of resources assigned to them at all times. They will also be familiar with this guideline and be well-versed in its contents as to deliver the intent to their subordinates. The company officer is also responsible to announce a “May-Day” whenever a fire fighter is missing or unaccounted for.

All Personnel: All personnel are expected to be familiar with this guideline. In the event that personnel are aware that a fire fighter is missing or unaccounted for they must announce a “May-Day”.

Responsibilities:

1. Follow directions from superiors
2. Continue with assignment unless otherwise directed
3. Retain emotional control
4. Every member on the scene should listen specifically for a "May-Day" as fireground noise could cover a call for the "May-Day"

IV. DEFINITION:

"May-Day" Radio Message: The radio message “May-Day” will be used by fire fighters to report their status as being in distress and needing rescue. Any member may use “May-Day” to report a lost fire fighter. Any report of “May-Day” will receive priority radio traffic. The term “May-Day” will be reserved ONLY to report a fire fighter(s) in distress.

Emergency Traffic: Used to inform units there is an on-going emergency and not to interrupt unless with another emergency

V. PROCEDURE:

- A. Company officers and individual fire fighters who suspect a fire fighter is missing must notify the incident commander immediately. The incident commander must always assume that the missing fire fighter is lost in the building until the member is accounted for. The system must include the ability to identify when a fire fighter is going to be delayed beyond his/her SCBA airtime.
- B. All personnel operating at the scene need to be alerted that a fire fighter is lost, trapped, or injured. A radio message announcing, "MAY-DAY, MAY-DAY, MAY-DAY", is the notification that a fire fighter is in distress.
- C. The following actions must be taken upon notification of a MAY-DAY:
 - 1. Location of the fire fighter in distress.
 - 2. Unit in which the person is assigned
 - 3. Name of the fire fighter(s) in distress
 - 4. Assignment and SCBA air quantity of the fire fighter(s) in distress.
 - 5. Resources needed to rescue the involved person(s)
 - 6. Activate the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)
- D. Upon notification of a MAY-DAY and activation of RIT, the incident commander shall consider requesting an additional alarm and/or specific rescue resources. The incident commander should also consider a medical component to their request.
- E. In the event of a MAY-DAY declaration, the incident commander must restructure his/her strategy and action plan to include a fire fighter rescue effort. The plan should include:
 - 1. Fire operations during rescue efforts
 - 2. Expanding organization
 - 3. Designated radio frequency for the rescue event
 - 4. Establish/deploy the RIT/Rescue Group
 - 5. Assign an officer to manage the Rescue Group
 - 6. Assign a Safety Officer to the Rescue Group
 - 7. Medical operations
 - 8. Safety
 - 9. Media control--information management

Daryl McDaniel, Fire Chief