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HANOVER PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guideline

Approved By:

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Original 04 / 07 / 2004

Chapter: 200

Section: 026

Update

EMERGENCY RADIO PROTOCOL

Purpose

This operational guideline establishes the proper application of emergency radio protocol and procedures

Scope

This guideline shall be applicable to all members of the department when operating at any emergency incident. If any procedures established by MABAS Division XII are inconsistent with this guideline, the procedure established by MABAS shall be utilized only when operating at a MABAS level incident outside of Hanover Park.

1. Emergency

1.1 Emergency shall be defined as any condition, circumstance or event that may be life-threatening to personnel beyond the scope of the original incident, will affect the outcome of the incident and requires immediate action. These conditions or events may include, but are not limited to:

1.1.1 A collapse, or potential collapse of a structure

1.1.2 Rapidly deteriorating fire conditions

1.1.3 A loss of water supply during interior or offensive fire attack

1.1.4 Any other situation where the Incident Commander deems an Emergency

1.2 An Emergency may be declared for circumstances, events or situations that have already occurred or that are imminent or probable.

1.3 The Incident Commander shall declare an Emergency by notifying DuComm that they have "Emergency Traffic" and then stating the nature of the Emergency, what actions are to be taken and on what channels the message is to be transmitted.

*Example: "DuComm from Main Street Command emergency traffic"
"The building has collapsed, order an emergency evacuation on Fire West and IFERN"*

1.4 DuComm will then activate the Emergency Alert Tone and broadcast the emergency message. DuComm will broadcast the Emergency on all radio channels that are operating at the incident scene for which they have the necessary capabilities.

1.5 Any other personnel may request an Emergency by directing radio traffic to the Incident Commander and repeating the word "Emergency" three (3) times. No other radio traffic will be sent until the nature, location and type of Emergency is transmitted.

1.6 The Incident Commander shall have all units not involved in the Emergency switch to a separate channel for the duration of the Emergency.

1.7 Any/all declared or broadcast Emergency shall be followed by a complete Personnel Accountability Report (PAR).



- 1.8 All personnel operating at the incident during an emergency shall limit radio traffic to only that which is necessary to resolve the emergency unless a back-up channel is assigned by the incident Commander.
- 1.9 An emergency evacuation order will be accompanied by 5 two-second blasts from all apparatus air horns.
- 1.10 The word "Urgent" may be used in those situations when the message is of significant importance, but an emergency is not being declared or requested.
- 1.11 The Incident Commander may duplicate the Emergency Message on other frequencies, including Fireground Red and Fireground White by utilizing the following procedure:

Using the key pad microphone:

- Press "*" quickly, then press "#" for two seconds (opens tone-activated portables)
- Short pause for radios to complete activation tones
- Press for one full second "#", "#", "# (mimics DuComm tone)
- Key the microphone and broadcast the message

This procedure should only be used on non-DuComm operated or monitored channels.

2. Mayday

- 2.1 The term "Mayday" will only be used when a firefighter(s) is in immediate peril. The following situations warrant the term "Mayday":
 - 2.1.1 Lost or missing firefighter
 - 2.1.2 Injured firefighter needing immediate assistance
 - 2.1.3 Trapped or downed firefighter
 - 2.1.4 Out or low on SCBA air supply
 - 2.1.5 Situations where rescue of a firefighter is necessary
 - 2.1.6 When a firefighter is found by another firefighter in circumstances listed above
- 2.2 A "Mayday" may be initiated by any personnel by radioing "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday" over any frequency or channel. The channel on which the Mayday was received will be secured for the Mayday only and all other radio traffic will cease until an alternate channel is assigned.
- 2.3 The Incident Commander shall respond to the "Mayday" and determine the necessary course of action.
- 2.4 The Incident Commander shall assign a dedicated radio operator at the command post to operate only the "Mayday" channel.



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- 2.5 All personnel not involved or assigned to the "Mayday" will switch to and operate on the alternate channel. Immediately upon switching, all units shall conduct a PAR on the alternate channel.
- 2.6 All other operations shall continue during the "Mayday" and only units so designated by the Incident Commander shall participate in the "Mayday" event and operate on the "Mayday" channel.
- 2.7 The Incident Commander shall release the "Mayday" channel for other use at the conclusion of the Mayday incident.