

MONTGOMERY COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 9

Caney Creek Volunteer Fire Department



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SUBJECT: MAY-DAY

1.00 PURPOSE

1.01 The purpose of this guideline is to assure that all personnel operating at the scene of an emergency are made aware of a MAYDAY call by a trapped, lost, or disoriented firefighter, and the ensuing actions that will be set forth in order to locate and rescue those personnel.

2.00 OBJECTIVES

2.01 To define the duties and responsibilities of individuals or functions on the emergency scene during MAYDAY situations.

2.02 To ensure that all members understand situations that warrant a MAY-DAY call, how radio communications are developed, and what parameters the Montgomery County ESD #9 will utilize in ensuring the safety of its members during this critical time.

3.00 DEFINITIONS

3.01 **MAYDAY: A term utilized on the emergency scene exclusively to report a firefighter(s) in distress as being lost, trapped, or missing.**

4.00 SCOPE

4.01 This guideline is applicable to all Montgomery County ESD# 9 Fire Department members that respond to or assist in emergency operation incidents.

5.00 RESPONSIBILITIES

5.01 The Incident Commander (IC) is responsible for the overall implementation of a plan on the report of a MAYDAY transmission from a firefighter who is potentially in distress. This plan should include the activation of an assigned Rapid Intervention Team (RIT), the continuation of the overall attack plan and strategy of the structure, and the safety of all personnel on the emergency scene.

5.02 Sector/Division Officers are responsible for the activities occurring within their assigned sector/division during MAYDAY incidents. These activities include company integrity, continuation of the attack plan

priorities, and/or the implementation of the rescue efforts within their assigned sector/division.

5.03 Company Officers are responsible for crew integrity at all times and reporting to IC when a crew member has become lost or separated. The Company Officer must also recognize situations that may develop into a MAYDAY call.

5.04 Firefighters will be responsible for their safety and crew integrity while performing assigned tasks on the emergency scene.

6.00 GUIDELINES

6.01 The recognition and rescue of trapped, or lost firefighter within a burning or collapsed structure is extremely time sensitive. There is a narrow window of survivability for a firefighter who is low or out of breathing air, and lost or trapped within a burning structure. If the personnel operating at the scene, including the Incident Commander lose control of fireground strategies, not only will efficiency decrease, but it may also reduce the chance of survivability of the trapped or lost firefighter(s). This policy is designed to prepare all personnel for any sudden life-threatening occurrences that may injure, trap, disorient, or distress any emergency response personnel during an emergency incident. It also standardizes the language to be used by all personnel to reflect that one or more personnel are in trouble, and in need of assistance.

6.02 Issuing a "MAY-DAY":

- A. When a firefighter identifies that he/she or member of his/her team, or has personal knowledge of a firefighter that is trapped, lost, disoriented, or injured and in need of assistance, he/she shall (if possible) transmit a verbal message on the fireground tactical channel to the INCIDENT COMMANDER and state: "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY."
- B. The individual issuing the MAYDAY shall provide as much of the following information as possible:
 1. L. Location.
 2. U. Unit Number.
 3. N. Name.
 4. A. Assignment (i.e. Sector, Division, etc.)
 5. R. Resources needed.
- C. The PASS device shall be activated.
- D. Lost or trapped firefighters shall remain together.
- E. If possible, lost or trapped firefighters shall attempt to seek an area of refuge, or an exit.

- F. If finding an exit is not possible, go to a wall (preferably an exterior wall), and position your body as to make it easier for other firefighters to locate you (i.e. sitting up if conditions allow).
- G. Shine a flashlight at the ceiling.
- H. Bang on the floor or walls to attract attention.

6.03 Incident Command's Response to a "MAYDAY":

- A. Upon receipt of a MAYDAY, Command shall advise all personnel that radio traffic must cease.
- B. Only radio traffic that is pertinent to the MAYDAY shall be permitted on the fire ground tactical channel.
- C. After the MAYDAY is received, the next highest alarm will be issued through the dispatcher (i.e. 2-11, 3-11, etc.), an additional Medic Unit shall be requested, as well as any special resources that have been determined to be needed (i.e. Heavy Rescue, Ladder Trucks, Heavy Equipment, etc).
- D. Provide a BRIEF PROGRESS REPORT to Fire Alarm and request an additional tactical channel for fire ground operations not associated with the MAYDAY event. Included a specific notation that the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) has been deployed.
- E. Immediately conduct a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) on the newly assigned tactical channel.
- F. Attempt to establish and maintain constant radio communications with the trapped or lost firefighter(s), and identify their "L.U.N.A.R."
- G. Initiate RIT operations, and direct them to the reported, or last known location (if radio contact is unavailable) of the trapped or lost firefighters.
- H. Assign a Safety Officer to the Rescue Sector/Division.
- I. Assign a back-up RIT Team, gather additional equipment, and a resource pool of personnel to fill-in as RIT Team members.
- J. The IC must maintain tactical control of the ENTIRE incident (i.e. RIT Operations, Fire Attack, etc.)! Utilization of sectors and divisions through the Incident Management System is recommended. COMPANIES MUST DISCIPLINE THEMSELVES NOT TO ABANDON THEIR TASKS TO FREELANCE SEARCH?
- K. The IC shall notify Fire Com to announce the conclusion of the MAYDAY event.