

## **Egg Harbor Fire Department and First Responders Standard Operating Guideline**

**Subject: MAYDAY EMERGENCY RADIO PROCEDURE**

**SOG 204**

**Purpose:** To provide all fire department personnel with a guideline for a member and/or team to declare an emergency over the radio that all firefighters will recognize as a true emergency and react accordingly. There may be a time in a firefighter's career when the unexpected can and will occur. This could be the result of being lost, trapped, injured, equipment failure or any other unexpected event which will require the assistance of the rapid intervention team. The firefighter must call for help immediately after a problem has been recognized. Many times, firefighters wait too long to call for help, therefore, decreasing their chance of survival. Call for help early. You can always cancel the help if you correct the problem before they arrive. Firefighters shall use the term **"Mayday"** if assistance is needed from the rapid intervention team (RIT). This term shall be used solely for these instances. All firefighters should train giving a mayday message so it will become second nature if ever utilized in real-life. All other important radio traffic will be issued using either **"Emergency Traffic"** or **"Urgent"**.

**Scope:** This procedure applies to all members of the Egg Harbor Fire Department

### **A. Mayday Parameters**

Before a firefighter can call a mayday they need to know when they should. The following is a list of some of the reasons to issue a mayday.

1. If you become lost or disoriented inside a structure
2. If you become trapped, stuck, or entangled
3. If you are running low on air
4. If you become injured or exhausted and are unable to exit
5. If you become separated from your crew
6. If you lose contact with the hose, search line
7. If you are caught in a collapse
8. If you fall from something or through something (floor, roof, etc.)
9. If your partner experiences any of these and cannot call a mayday then you should call one for them
10. If you become cut off from exits by fire
11. If you have an equipment failure

## **B. Mayday Procedures**

1. Declare “Mayday, Mayday, Mayday” over the radio.
2. The IC should then stop all fire ground radio traffic and advise all units there is a mayday. This should prompt all other personnel to stay off the radio and select another frequency.
3. If a Mayday is given, the Comm. Center will refrain from any radio traffic unless the Mayday has not been acknowledged by personnel on scene. At that time the Comm. Center will advise the Incident Commander of the situation and then stand by until they are needed.
4. All team leaders should conduct a PAR to insure their personnel are accounted for.
5. The unit calling mayday should relay information to the IC and RIT by utilizing the “UCAN” acronym.
  - U-Unit
  - C-Conditions (including air supply status)
  - A-Actions
  - N-Needs
6. The unit calling mayday should try to remain calm in order to give good accurate information. Include last known location, what was your assignment; what side did you enter the building on etc.
7. The mayday firefighter should activate his/her PASS device once the radio transmission has been given. This will help the incoming RIT locate them quicker.
8. Once information has been received the IC will then activate RIT to search for the firefighter giving the mayday.
9. The lost/trapped firefighter can also help themselves by making tapping noises with tools, turning on flashlights, attempting to find walls, doors, and windows. If the situation changes he/she should advise the IC immediately so the RIT can be updated.
10. Radio traffic at this time should be kept to emergency traffic only by the IC, lost/trapped firefighter, and RIT.
11. Once the mayday has been cleared, the IC will call “All Clear” over the radio and all units will go back to normal operations.

**C. Mayday radio procedures are just one tool that should be used in an emergency situation. Learn self-rescue techniques, stay with your crew at all times, and try to avoid getting yourself in situations that may require assistance. This may limit your chance of ever having to use a Mayday.**