

## **26. Firefighter MAYDAY**

### **26.1 Purpose**

26.1.1 To establish a procedure to be used when calling for firefighter assistance and to notify all personnel on the emergency scene that an imminent life-threatening situation exists.

### **26.2 Declaring a MADAY**

26.2.1 When a firefighter becomes lost or trapped or experience equipment malfunction or other fighters suspect a firefighter is in trouble the following procedures must be followed.

26.2.2 Call for help immediately- report on portable radio will be as follows: (Riding assignment) "379 Irons to command, MAYDAY - MAYDAY - MAYDAY."

When the incident commander acknowledges the mayday you will announce your situation. A firefighter must declare a mayday when confront by, but not limited to the following:

- a. Immediately upon a firefighter believing he/she is disoriented or lost and unable to exit any existing imminent danger to life& health (IDLH) environment;
- b. Immediately upon the sounding or detection of one's low air alarms with the inability to promptly exit any existing IDLH environment;
- c. Immediately upon a firefighter becoming trapped or entangled to the point of requiring assistance;
- d. Immediately upon a firefighter falling through a roof or floor;
- e. Immediately upon a firefighter sustaining ANY injury which impairs his/her ability to exit any existing IDLH environment;
- f. Immediately upon discovery of a vital personal protective equipment (PPE) equipment problem which poses a substantial threat of harm and a firefighter unable to immediately exit the IDLH environment;
- g. Immediately upon discovery that your primary exit is blocked by fire or collapse and you are not at a secondary exit in 30 seconds;
- h. Immediately upon discovery of another firefighter

experiencing any of the above situations.

### **26.3 Firefighters Responsibility**

26.3.1 When a member becomes trapped, disoriented, lost or injured and needs assistance, they shall attempt to notify their officer or someone in the immediate area that assistance is needed.

26.3.2 If there is no response from anyone in the immediate area, the MAYDAY message should be transmitted ASAP to the IC.

26.3.3 Once the MADAY is received the firefighter will provide as much information as possible for the IC to include to following:

- a. L - Location
- b. U - Unit ID (riding assignment)
- c. N - Names (ONLY IF SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED)
- d. A - Assignment (What were you last doing)
- e. R - Resources needed to assist you

26.3.4 Once the information is relayed to the IC the firefighter will activate the emergency button on the PASS device.

26.3.5 Trapped or lost members shall remain together at all times, attempting to perform any self-rescue techniques. Any changes in the location or status shall be immediately relayed to the IC.

26.3.6 If a member can not issue a verbal MAYDAY, the firefighter shall activate the emergency button on the PASS device.

26.3.7 The member can cancel the mayday if there is no longer a danger. This will be done via radio or face to face with the incident commander.

### **26.4 Incident Commanders Responsibility**

26.4.1 When the incident commander receives a mayday the IC shall immediately acknowledge it and request/repeat the LUNAR information.

26.4.2 The IC will IMMEDIATELY activate the RIT.

26.4.3 The IC shall ensure that the Operations Commander and or Group supervisor is aware of the situation.

26.4.4 The IC shall ensure that members not involved in the mayday continue firefighter operations.

26.4.5 The IC will determine what radio frequency all others on the fire ground will switch to. The mayday will NOT have to switch radio frequencies.

26.4.6 The IC will assume control on the mayday and assign a deputy to command and monitor the fire ground operations.

26.4.7 A PAR will be conducted on the newly assigned fire ground operations frequency.

26.4.8 The IC will request any additional resources necessary to effectively manage the rescue and overall incident.