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**Title:** Fire Fighter Mayday

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## **PURPOSE**

To address the inherent dangers of firefighting activities by providing firefighters and command staff with a procedure for handling lost, trapped or distressed firefighter(s). This situation allows a narrow window of survivability for the firefighter(s).

## **SCOPE**

This procedure applies to all emergency response personnel operating at incident within Lancaster County.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

1. All fire department chiefs are responsible to comply with and ensure that personnel under their command are adequately trained, fully understand, and comply with this guideline.
2. All personnel have the responsibility to learn and follow this guideline.
3. All personnel shall use proper terminology identified in this SOG when functioning in ICS system.
4. This guideline will be adopted by the Lancaster County Fire Chief's Association and should be adopted by all fire agencies dispatched by Lancaster County-Wide Communications (LCWC).

## **DEFINITIONS**

Priority – Used to halt radio traffic to report immediate hazards or problems that could adversely effect operations or pose safety concerns.

Mayday – Used to silence radio traffic to report a lost, missing or trapped firefighter(s). This transmission will only be used in the following situations or conditions:

1. By a member or company that is lost, trapped, injured or otherwise in distress.
2. By Company/Unit Officer, Group or Division Supervisor or Command staff that cannot account for an assigned firefighter operating in the hazard area. This would generally occur following a PAR that fails to locate and account for the firefighter(s).
3. By a firefighter who witnesses, or has confirmed that a firefighter is lost, trapped or injured.
4. Should not be used if finding a lost or trapped civilian. Use "Priority" message.

## **Guideline:**

1. Firefighter(s) or crew Responsibilities:
  - a. Transmit over fire ground channel: MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY.

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2. Be prepared to provide following information to the Incident Commander (LUNAR):
  - a. Location or last known
  - b. Unit number
  - c. Name(s)
  - d. Assignment (given by command)
  - e. Resources needed
  
3. Tactical recommendations for distressed fire fighter(s):
  - a. Activate PASS alarm
  - b. Crews shall remain intact
  - c. Direct flashlight(s) to ceiling in several directions
  
4. Command Responsibilities:
  - a. Acknowledge the Mayday transmission.
  - b. Record the LUNAR information as provided.
  - c. Announce Mayday on the fire ground channel and advise all units to maintain radio silence.
  - d. Advise Lancaster County-Wide Communications (LCWC) of the Mayday and request a new fire ground channel. Advise all units on the incident to switch to new channel, and request the Mayday Assignment and additional alarm if needed. [*Mayday assignment consists of one (1) Truck, one (1) Rescue, Collapse 6-5, one (1) ALS, and one (1) BLS*] Only mission essential units should remain on the mayday channel; Command, RIT and others advised by the Incident Commander.
  - e. Deploy the RIT to the given or last known location.
  - f. Evacuate building if conditions warrant (see h.)
  - g. Conduct a PAR on the new fire ground channel.
  - h. Do not abandon firefighting positions if crews are not in jeopardy and they must not freelance to the rescue efforts. Control of the fire is critical to firefighter survival and rescue.
  - i. Verify at least one additional alarm has been dispatched.
  - j. Establish a new RIT.
  - k. Request additional resources as needed/required:
    - i. Special/tactical rescue teams
    - ii. EMS resources

**Standard Operating Guideline – Lancaster County Fire Chief’s Association**

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- iii. Command & General Officers/Staff
- iv. Support services/CISD
- v. Heavy equipment

- l. Establish a Rescue Group Supervisor and Division Supervisors as required on large-scale operations.
- m. Advise LCWC of completion/termination of the Mayday event.

5. LCWC Center Responsibilities:

- a. Dedicate a dispatcher to the Mayday channel
- b. Dispatch Mayday Assignment and any additional resources requested.
- c. If a fire fighter(s) or crew transmits the Mayday on an unassigned channel, LCWC shall immediately advise the Incident Commander, and that channel will become the Mayday channel.
- d. Clear all traffic off Mayday channel.
- e. Attempt to obtain the LUNAR information from the fire fighter(s) or crew reporting the Mayday.