

## Standard Operating Guideline – Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association

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**Title:** Mayday Task Force

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**Purpose:** The purpose of the Mayday Task Force is to provide for the life safety of emergency service personnel. The Task Force is tasked with providing rescue services at the scene of any Lancaster County incident regardless of size and complexity.

The objectives of the guideline is to identify and describe the resources, procedures for requesting the task force, as well as the responsibilities of the task force and organizational structure of the RIT Task Force.

**Scope:** This guideline applies to all agencies requesting the Mayday Task Force, and resources making up the Task Force.

**Guideline:**

1. Resources of the Mayday Task Force

a. The Mayday Task Force consists of the following resources:

- i. Collapse Rescue Team
- ii. One (1) Truck Company
- iii. One (1) Rescue Company
- iv. One (1) ALS Unit
- v. One (1) BLS Unit

b. The Truck, Rescue and ALS can be any available unit listed on the resources of the requesting fire department.

2. Procedures for Requesting the Mayday Task Force

a. The Mayday Task Force may be requested for any Mayday Event.

- i. Mayday Event – Called when there is a downed or trapped fire fighter and additional manpower and special resources will be required to complete the extrication.

1. The Incident Commander will request, through Lancaster County-Wide Communications, the Mayday Task Force to respond to a “Mayday Event”.

- ii. Stand By – Requested when the incident warrants additional resources to be available for rapid deployment at the scene of the incident.

1. The Incident Commander will request, through Lancaster County-Wide Communications, the Mayday Task Force to respond to a “Stand By”.

3. Responsibility and Procedures of Resources Comprising the Mayday Task Force

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- a. Task Force Leader
  - i. There will be only one (1) Task Force Leader.
  - ii. The crew leader (unit officer) of the first arriving fire service unit of the Mayday Task Force will assume the Task Force Leader position.
  - iii. The Task Force Leader position MAY be transferred to another member of the Task Force if deemed necessary.
  - iv. The Task Force Leader will coordinate with the Incident Commander or their direct Supervisor to establish an assembly point / staging area for all Mayday Task Force Units.
  - v. The Mayday Task Force Leader will coordinate the movement and engagement of all task force units. Task Force units and elements will only coordinate with the Task Force Leader and make every effort to maintain the unity of command.
  
- b. Mayday Task Force Units (Truck and Rescue)
  - i. All Mayday Task Force Units shall report directly to the Task Force staging area or assembly point upon arrival.
  - ii. Units shall not directly engage in fire fighting activities. If given an assignment by the Incident Commander, advise the Incident Commander that the unit is part of the Mayday Task Force and is only available for RIT/Mayday functions.
  - iii. Mayday Task Force Units may immediately engage in Life Safety or RIT functions upon arrival if needed prior to the arrival of the other Mayday Task Force Units.
  - iv. If Units immediately engage, they will advise the Mayday Task Force Leader of such activities.
  
- c. Mayday Task Force ALS Unit
  - i. The Mayday Task Force ALS Unit's primary role is to provide medical services to the Mayday Task Force Members as well as the trapped personnel.
  - ii. The ALS unit shall not engage in other on scene activities with other on scene Medical Units.
  - iii. The ALS Unit shall obtain the Medical Plan (ICS 206) form from the on scene Medical Units. If no Medical Plan exists, one will be created by as soon as possible by the Mayday Task Force ALS Unit.

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4. Organizational Structure

- a. A Mayday Task Force Leader will be designated on all Mayday Task Force Deployments. The Task Force Leader position shall be assumed by the crew leader (unit officer) of the first arriving fire service unit of the Mayday Task Force. The Task Force Leader position may be transferred to another member of the Task Force but only through the formal transfer process.
- b. All crew leaders (unit officers) will report to and receive assignments from the Mayday Task Force Leader only. Unity of Command is imperative to ensure a safe and successful operation.
- c. Resources assigned to the Mayday Task Force shall not free lance or receive assignments from other ICS Command and General Staff positions except for immediate life safety concerns.
- d. Mayday Task Force Positions
  - i. Task Force Leader (1)
  - ii. Collapse 65 Team Leader (1)
  - iii. Rescue Company Crew Leader [Unit Officer] (1)
  - iv. Truck Company Crew Leader [Unit Officer] (1)
  - v. ALS Unit Crew Leader [Unit Officer] (1)
  - vi. BLS Unit Crew Leader [Unit Officer] (1)
- e. See Attachment 1 for an example of the Mayday Task Force organizations chart.

5. Responsibility of Lancaster County-Wide Communications (LCWC)

- a. Mayday Event
  - i. Dedicate a dispatcher to the Mayday channel.
  - ii. Dispatch Mayday Task Force for Mayday assignment and any additional resources requested and/or needed.
  - iii. Example Verbiage for Dispatch – “Dispatching Mayday Task Force for a Reported Mayday, East Hempfield Twp, 500 Centerville Rd, Park Plaza, Collapse 6-5, Truck 6-6, Rescue 8-4-1, M7-7-6, A6-12-1”. Repeat announcement.
  - iv. If a firefighter(s) or crew transmits a Mayday on an unassigned channel, LCWC shall immediately take the following actions
    1. Clear all traffic off Mayday channel
    2. Advise the Incident Commander of the Mayday and the channel on which the Mayday was called. This channel will be the Mayday channel for the duration of the event.

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3. Attempt to obtain the LUNAR information from the firefighter(s) or crew reporting the Mayday.
  - a. Location
  - b. Unit assigned to.
  - c. Name(s) of downed or trapped crew.
  - d. Air supply remaining if known.
  - e. Resources needed if known.
  
- b. Stand By at Incident
  - i. The Incident Commander may request the Mayday Task Force to be pre-deployed at an incident for stand by.
  - ii. Dispatch Mayday Task Force for a Stand By.
  - iii. Example Verbiage for Dispatch – “Dispatching Mayday Task Force for a Stand By, East Hempfield Twp, 500 Centerville Rd, Park Plaza, Collapse 6-5, Truck 6-6, Rescue 8-4-1, M7-7-6, A6-12-1”. Repeat announcement.

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a. ATTACHMENT 1

Example of Mayday Task Force Organizational Chart

