



ABINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

OG - 400-101

Guideline for Requesting a "MAYDAY" Response

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The rescue of trapped or lost firefighters in a burning or collapsed building is especially time sensitive. There is a very narrow window of survivability for a fire fighter who is out of SCBA air supply and trapped by approaching fire or building collapse. It is extraordinarily difficult to control the well-intentioned actions of would-be rescuers. However, the risks and disadvantages associated with not controlling the fire ground effectively during this time may not only hinder the operation but also contribute to further injury or death. Therefore, rapid, concise decisions and actions must be taken to increase survivability.
- 1.2 To prepare emergency response personnel for sudden life-threatening occurrences that may injure, trap, disorient or otherwise cause distress during an emergency incident.
- 1.3 To standardize language to be used by all personnel to reflect that one or more is in trouble and in need of assistance.
- 1.4 This document applies to all Township Fire Companies.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility to ensure that the actions described in this procedure are carried out belongs to the following.

- 2.1 Company Members
- 2.2 Company Officers
- 2.3 Montgomery County Emergency Dispatch Services (EDS)

3.0 PROCEDURE

- 3.1 The word MAYDAY should only be used during an actual emergency situation. During training another word should be used so as not to alert personnel who may be monitoring the training event on the radio.
- 3.2 Declaring a MAYDAY
 - 3.2.1 When an emergency responder identifies that he/she or a member of his/her team is lost, trapped, disoriented, or injured and in need of assistance, he/she shall (if possible) transmit a verbal message on the tactical channel to COMMAND and state "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY."
 - 3.2.2 The individual reporting shall provide the following information:
 - L : Location
 - U: Unit number
 - N: Name
 - A: Assignment (per incident Command System)

R: Resources needed

- 3.2.3** If the distressed firefighter(s) cannot communicate verbally, and if so equipped, the radio EMERGENCY button shall be activated, and the distressed firefighter shall remain on the tactical channel.
- 3.2.4** The Firefighters P.A.S.S. device shall be activated to the alarm position.
- 3.2.5** Lost or trapped fire fighters shall remain together.

3.3 COMMAND response to "MAYDAY":

- 3.3.1** Upon receipt of a MAYDAY, COMMAND shall advise all personnel that all radio traffic must cease.
- 3.3.2** Only radio traffic pertinent to the MAYDAY shall be permitted on the tactical channel.
- 3.3.3** Immediately conduct a Personnel Accountability Roll Call (PAR), if the identification and location of the lost or trapped fire fighter is unknown.
 - 3.3.3.1** When a PAR is called personnel are to follow the Fire ground Accountability Guidelines.
- 3.3.4** Commit the Firefighters Assistance and Search Team (FAST) or Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) to the most appropriate location to initiate a rescue.
- 3.3.5** Provide a brief progress report to Montgomery County Emergency Dispatch Services (EDS) and request an additional tactical channel for incident operations not associated with the MAYDAY event. Include a specific notation if a FAST team is deployed.
- 3.3.6** COMMAND shall request an additional FAST team, an additional ALS unit, a full additional alarm, and other units needed as dictated by the event.
- 3.3.7** Sector commanders shall conduct a PAR at each 20-minute notification until the event is declared under control or concluded.
- 3.3.8** COMMAND shall notify EDS to announce the conclusion of the MAYDAY event.

3.4 Montgomery County Emergency Dispatch Services (EDS) response to MAYDAY calls:

- 3.4.1** The EDS response to MAYDAY calls is outlined in the Montgomery County PA Emergency Dispatch Services Fire Radio Procedures.

4.0 RECORDS

4.1 Master Document Listing