

Guilford Fire Department
Standard Operating Guideline

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Title: MAYDAY PROCEDURES

<u>Approved By:</u>	<u>Replacing:</u> All Previous	<u>Number of Pages:</u> 3
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Purpose:

The purpose of this guideline is to provide action steps to be taken by the mayday firefighter(s), and the Incident Commander to initiate the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT), for successful removal of the affected firefighter(s) from the hazardous environment.

Scope:

This SOG applies to all fire department personnel, while operating at any scene or training exercise.

Procedure:

The **MAYDAY** signal may be declared by fire personnel who may be trapped, in imminent danger, in need of immediate assistance or by the Incident Commander.

The Dispatcher shall ensure that the Mayday signal was acknowledge by the Incident Commander.

Personnel who transmit a Mayday signal should, if at all possible, include the following information:

- a) **STATE THE UNIT/ FIREFIGHTERS NAME IN TROUBLE AND THIER LOCATION- floor, room etc.**
- b) **SPECIAL TOOLS OR EQUIPMENT NEEDED;**
- c) **HOSE LINE REQUIREMENTS;**
- d) **OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION.**

If the members who have transmitted a Mayday feel their transmission has not been received using the fire ground channel, they shall then transmit the Mayday on the dispatch channel. The Dispatcher shall notify the Incident Commander and then simulcast as outlined in the other section of this procedure.

When a Mayday is transmitted and resulting in a negative response from the unit giving the Mayday a **ROLL CALL shall be performed to confirm PAR.**

Upon receipt of a Mayday signal, ALL fire ground activities underway shall continue. Members shall not exit the fire building unless specifically told to do so by the Incident Commander.

AFTER A MAYDAY SIGNAL IS DECLARED, AND CONFIRMED BY THE INCIDENT COMMANDER, THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES SHOULD TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY, AND IF POSSIBLE, IN THE FOLLOWING SEQUENCE.

- 1. THE INCIDENT COMMANDER SHALL DEPLOY THE RIT TEAM TO THE AREA WHERE THE UNIT (S) WAS REPORTED OR LAST REPORTED.**
- 2. THE INCIDENT COMMANDER SHOULD REQUEST AN ADDITIONAL "RIT" TEAM OR TEAMS TO THE SCENE**
- 3. THE INCIDENT COMMANDER MAY CONSIDER IF ADDITIONAL ALARMS ARE NEEDED.**

All units responding to the Mayday, who have not been assigned a task by the Incident Commander, shall have the officer in charge report to the Incident Commander for assignment. Company personnel, **SHALL REMAIN WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE UNITS** in full protective equipment, including Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, hand tools and a spare air cylinder.

THE DISPATCHER WILL NOTIFY THE CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT OF THE MAYDAY IMMEDIATELY IF NOT ALREADY AWARE OF THE INCIDENT.

During the time period of a Mayday, it is imperative that all Fire Department members put forth their full effort towards bringing a safe ending to this type of incident. This will only be accomplished through calm, collective efforts by all personnel. Personnel must be prepared to respond to any command necessary to fulfill this mission.

It is **IMPERATIVE** that radio communication at any fire ground operation, especially with a Mayday situation, **BE KEPT TO AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM ALLOWING ONLY ESSENTIAL TRANSMISSIONS** As stated previously, ALL fire personnel shall pay close attention to all radio communications.

Multiple channels may be utilized at a mayday situation. The channel designated by the **INCIDENT COMMANDER** as the fire ground channel shall be used by all personnel operating on the fire ground unless specifically altered by the Incident Commander due to personnel declaring a Mayday.

The Incident Commander may direct the **DISPATCH CENTER** to change the fire ground channel to another frequency after a Mayday has been declared. This will allow for a dedicated channel for the endangered personnel. Once the fire ground channel has been changed by the Incident Commander and announced by the Dispatcher, **ALL** fire ground personnel shall switch to the newly designated fire ground channel as indicated by the Incident Commander. The Incident Commander shall assign fire personnel to monitor this channel.

Incoming personnel and staged personnel that have been dispatched to a Mayday shall utilize fire ground unless another channel is assigned by the Dispatcher.

DEFINITIONS OF RADIO CHANNELS:

FIRE GROUND CHANNEL - Channel to be utilized by **ALL** fire ground personnel. Normally **TAC 1** unless changed by the Incident Commander or Dispatch Center.

MAYDAY CHANNEL - Once declared by the Incident Commander, this channel is to be only used by the endangered personnel. This channel shall be monitored by fire personnel appointed by the Incident Commander.

THE KEY TO ACCOMPLISHING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE INCIDENT COMMANDER SHALL BE THE DISCIPLINE OF FIRE PERSONNEL.

Manpower at an incident involving a Mayday will normally be taxed to the utmost. It shall be of primary importance that, **ALL** personnel promptly obey the commands given by Officers.

Fire ground personnel shall be prepared to respond to complex and exacting directives. Fire conditions may be such that the Incident Commander may order multiple hand lines and fire streams may be placed into operation in various configurations, including but not limited too, exterior, tandem, and/or opposing attack profiles.

It is imperative to remember that not all possibilities can be specified. Therefore, the tactics used must be conducive to maintaining survivable conditions for the trapped or missing members.