

WASHTENAW AREA MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: MAYDAY POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 03, 2010

REVISED DATE:

- I. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to provide a unified county procedure for a “Mayday” situation.
- II. **DEFINITION:** “MAYDAY” is a term utilized to report a firefighter(s) who is lost, trapped, or in imminent danger. **Mayday is not an emergency evacuation call.**
- III. **RESPONSIBILITY:** It is imperative that all agencies and emergency scene personnel understand this procedure as it shall be the sole method for emergency personnel who find themselves or others in a life-threatening situation to communicate such an emergency at any incident.
- IV. **MAYDAY DESCRIPTION:**
- A. The following situation will initiate a Mayday call but not limited to:
- Trapped
 - Entanglement
 - Cut off by fire
 - Cut off by collapse
 - Through the floor
 - Pinned
 - SCBA failure
 - Firefighter down
 - Lost/disoriented
 - Past device activation
- V. **MAYDAY PROCEDURE:**
- A. The Mayday procedure shall be used by emergency response agencies as follows:
1. The signal for missing/lost/trapped emergency personnel is the radio or verbal transmission of “**Mayday, Mayday, Mayday.**”
 2. The “**Mayday**” transmission shall continue until acknowledged by the Incident Commander (IC).
 3. The Communications Dispatcher and IC, upon hearing a “**Mayday**” call, shall advise “Emergency Radio Traffic Only” and all other radio traffic to stay clear (until released by IC) of the channel on which the “**Mayday**” was declared. The operations not directly involved in the “**Mayday**” shall switch portable and mobile radios to the assigned alternate Interoperability (Interop) Channel that will be determined by the Dispatcher and IC. This shall be the primary channel for all fire ground and inter-agency communications. (Note-All future programming will be required to have Interop 13 in the “A” bank.)
 4. Any emergency scene personnel that are aware of a missing individual or crew should also declare a “**Mayday.**”

5. Individuals who declare a “**Mayday**” shall provide as much information as possible utilizing the acronym LUNAR (Location, Unit, Name, Air, Resources).
6. Personnel who become trapped or disoriented should execute all necessary self-rescue activities to assist in their own rescue (including activation of their PASS Device after radio transmission, tapping noises, flashlights etc.).
7. Upon receipt of the “**Mayday**,” the incident commander shall immediately consult with the RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) leader.
8. All fire suppression activities shall continue unless ordered to cease by the IC.
9. The Incident Commander shall call for a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR).
10. All emergency responders shall have previously provided personnel accountability tags to the IC or his designee.
11. All “Mayday” activity shall include the dispatch of an additional engine(s) company (preferably with a total 4 personnel), and a command officer from a nearby department and an additional ALS unit.
12. Personnel and other assets shall NOT self-dispatch to the scene.

Approved 11/02/2010 by: WAMAA Chiefs and President, Chief Craig Hoelt

