

WASHTENAW AREA MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION POLICY

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Signature of Approval:	

WAMAA PRESIDENT – James Rachwal

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide a unified countywide procedure for “Mayday” situations in Washtenaw County.

DEFINITION:

“MAYDAY” is a term utilized to report a firefighter(s) who are lost, trapped, or in imminent danger. **A Mayday Emergency Is Not An Emergency Evacuation Call.**

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is imperative that all fire personnel and ancillary 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.

MAYDAY SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

A mayday is to be declared anytime an individual cannot safely exit and immediately dangerous to life or health hazard zone. An emergency responder who encounter the following situations (Mayday emergencies are however not limited to the following) shall initiate a Mayday emergency call:

- Trapped Member
- Crew Cut Off By Fire
- Member Who Fell Through The Floor
- SCBA Failure
- Lost/Disoriented Member
- Member Who Is Entangled
- Member Who Is Cut Off By Collapse
- Member Who Is Pinned

- Firefighter Down
- Member Experiencing A Medical Emergency
- Pass Device Activation, Of Which The Source Is Unable To Be Located
- Member who is operating in an IDLH hazard zone that does not answer their portable radio after three (3) attempts.

MAYDAY PROCEDURE:

The Mayday procedure shall be used by all fire departments within Washtenaw County.

The procedure for declaring a Mayday Emergency shall be for the firefighter to activate their Emergency Button, by pushing the button for at least one second on the radio, and then by radio or by verbal transmission announcing *“Mayday, Mayday, Mayday.”*

The “Mayday” transmission shall continue until acknowledged by the Incident Commander (IC).

If the Mayday is not immediately acknowledged by the Incident Commander, Central Dispatch shall notify the Incident Commander that a Mayday has been declared and shall advise the Incident Commander the talkgroup that the Mayday has been declared on.

The Incident Commander upon hearing a “Mayday” call, shall advise “Emergency Radio Traffic Only” which results in all other radio traffic stay clear (until released by the Incident Commander) of the talk group on which the “Mayday” was declared.

All other units operating at the incident scene will maintain radio discipline until the emergency traffic has been cleared by the Incident Commander.

All fire suppression activities shall continue unless ordered to cease by the Incident Commander unless the actions of crews performing tasks are in direct proximity of the firefighter experiencing the Mayday, at which time rescue is to be performed. The Incident Commander must be notified of the actions being taken.

The person or crew transmitting the MADAY after being acknowledged by the Incident Commander shall attempt to provide the following information using the acronym LUNAR.

- **L** = Location – such as floor, room, side of building, etc.; be specific as possible.
- **U** = Unit Number – Verbalize your assigned unit number
- **N** = Name – Verbalize your name
- **A** = Assignment and amount of Air - Verbalize what you were doing, what the problem is, and how much air you have left in your bottle.
- **R** = Resources – Needs such as hose line, ladder, hand tools, air bottles, additional personnel, etc.
- Be sure to identify the nature of the emergency
- Be sure to identify the number of personnel involved in the emergency

Upon receipt of this information, the Incident Commander shall repeat the information back.

Personnel who become trapped or disoriented should execute all necessary self-rescue activities to assist in their own rescue, and should take the following actions:

- Stay calm...**think**
- Turn radio volume up to max and put the speaker mic by your ear.
- Conserve air supply
- Stay with crew
- Take actions to self-rescue.
 - If necessary, retreat to an area of safety.
 - If necessary, attempt to entrench in the area of danger.
- Position self to maximize audible effects of the PASS device
- Create noises with tools.
- Position flashlight beam toward the ceiling and/or continue to rotate beam side to side.
- Update the Incident Commander of all self-rescue actions taken.

Upon receipt of the “Mayday,” the Incident Commander shall immediately consult with the RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) leader.

The Incident Commander may redirect their actions to address the Mayday emergency, or may choose to delegate that responsibility to a Rescue Group Supervisor, or Rescue Branch Director. It is highly recommended that the Incident Commander NOT be functionally responsible for both the Incident Commander position, and also attempt to directly manage the Mayday emergency.

Upon the declaration of a Mayday Emergency, Central Dispatch shall automatically:

- Dispatch next BOX alarm level.
 - During the initial dispatch, Central Dispatch shall notify the responding department / units that they are responding to a Mayday Emergency.
 - Assign these units to a talkgroup – SEE BELOW
- Reserve the next two paired additional Interop Talk Groups
 - Assign the mayday responding units to the first of these Interop talkgroups
- Dispatch an additional EMS transport unit for a total of two transport capable ambulances.
- An additional transport capable EMS unit should be dispatched for each member involved in the “Mayday” (3 firefighters involved in a Mayday would require 3 EMS transport units, plus 1 additional transport unit).
 - ALS units are preferred over BLS units.
- Check the availability of a medical helicopter.

Units responding on the additional box assigned for the Mayday shall:

- If not already determined by the Incident Commander; determine a suitable staging area for responding apparatus.
- Assure that the staging area information is provided to Central Dispatch, and assure that this location is communicated to all the units assigned for the Mayday Emergency.
- First arriving officer in staging is to notify the Incident Commander (on the assigned operations talkgroup) that they are arrival in staging and will be the staging officer, and provide a list of available resources in staging if requested.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Any personnel that are aware of a missing individual or crew should also declare a "Mayday."

The Incident Commander may perform a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) or Roll Call.