	FRANKLIN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE	Op-3-MAY
		DATE 9/1/2003 REV. 1/1/2012
	TITLE MAYDAY Operations	Effective Date 3/12/2012

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES FOR MAYDAY OPERATIONS


Supersedes FCFCA SOP Op-3-MAY, 9/1/2003

PURPOSE:

The objective of this guideline is to establish language and procedures used in response to an incident MAYDAY situation.

TERMINOLOGY:

- A. EMERGENCY BUTTON (EB) – A button located on mobile and portable radios programmed to assist users in times of distress by providing ruthless preemption (enabling that radio to override all other voice transmissions on a trunked communications system).
- B. EMERGENCY TONE (ET) – An alert tone controlled and activated by Franklin County Department of Emergency Services Communications. This tone replaced the previously used separate MAYDAY and Evacuation tones.
- C. FRANKLIN – The call sign of Franklin County Department of Emergency Services Communications Talkgroup (TG) Dispatcher/Operators.
- D. INCIDENT COMMANDER (IC) – The individual who is in charge of and responsible for making the strategic decisions and delegating assignments necessary to control an incident.
- E. IMMEDIATELY DANGEROUS to LIFE and HEALTH (IDLH) – An atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous environment.
- F. LUNAR – The acronym used as a memory aid for persons transmitting critical MAYDAY information to the IC.
- G. MAYDAY – A standard verbal emergency radio transmission used by any first responder, who has recognized themselves or another crew member is in need of emergency assistance to escape an IDLH atmosphere or other life threatening situation.
- H. PASS DEVICE – The acronym for the Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) device, which is a signaling unit integrated into the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) used to locate first responders in distress.

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- I. PERSONNEL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT (PAR) – The acronym used to describe a report conducted by the IC or designated individual, which requires contacting crew, division and/or group leaders to ensure the immediate accountability for their personnel.

- J. PRIORITY – A standard verbal radio transmission used to identify all other urgent messages for tactical considerations such as a rapid change in fire conditions, potential for a collapse, etc. not known to immediately affect the well-being of a first responder, but has the direct potential.

- K. RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM (RIT) – A designated crew or group of personnel that will serve as a stand-by rescue team solely dedicated for the immediate search and rescue of firefighters. This team shall be equipped with the following equipment, but not limited to: full personal protective equipment and SCBA; portable radio; hose line(s); Thermal Imaging Camera; RIT Bag (Supplemental Emergency Breathing Air for downed firefighter); rope; forcible entry and extrication tools; and any other equipment deemed appropriate for the operation.

PROCEDURES:

- I. Conditions Warranting a MAYDAY – The following are conditions in which personnel must recognize themselves, their crew, or another crew member may be in imminent danger.
 - A. Personnel, who have become entangled, trapped, pinned, stuck, or separated from their crew in an IDLH or experienced a medical emergency requiring assistance.
 - B. Personnel involved in a structural collapse of any kind, cannot be accounted for, or have become injured.
 - C. Personnel caught in a rapid change in fire conditions such as a flashover, explosion or backdraft.
 - D. Personnel utilizing a SCBA with a low air alert activation who cannot immediately exit an IDLH.
 - E. Personnel who become disoriented, missing, lost, or off a hose line or tag line in a large/open area with limited visibility.
 - F. Any other event where the safety of themselves or other emergency responders' lives are at an immediate risk without a means of immediate exit.

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II. Procedure for Declaring a MAYDAY


- A. The optimal procedure for declaring a MAYDAY is for the emergency responder to first activate the EB prior to declaring, "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY."
- B. If the individual declaring the MAYDAY cannot readily access the EB, he/she should transmit the MAYDAY, and when possible activate the EB prior to transmitting any additional emergency traffic.
- C. When an EB is activated with no MAYDAY voice transmission following, Franklin must notify the IC of the EB activation. The IC must make two attempts to verbally contact the individual with the activated EB. If there is no response, the IC must declare a MAYDAY.
- D. The IC must declare a MAYDAY for any crew member that cannot be accounted for after two requests during an incident PAR.

III. Acknowledging a MAYDAY

- A. Once a MAYDAY transmission is declared, the IC must acknowledge and answer this MAYDAY immediately, "Unit with the MAYDAY...Go ahead with your LUNAR."
- B. The individual declaring the MAYDAY shall transmit a brief situational status report to the IC referencing LUNAR:
 1. L – Location and situation of MAYDAY personnel
 2. U – Unit designation
 3. N – Name of emergency responder(s)
 4. A – Air supply and/or assignment
 5. R – Additional resources needed

**Immediately after declaring a MAYDAY for oneself, and if wearing an SCBA, the responder should activate his/her PASS device.


- C. Franklin must monitor the incident communications for the following:
 1. A MAYDAY and/or EB activation that is not acknowledge by the IC;
 2. No voice transmissions after the MAYDAY declaration or EB activation;
 3. The IC initiates the MAYDAY declaration for themselves; or
 4. A MAYDAY and/or EB activation when command has not yet been established.

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**In any of these situations, Franklin will immediately make the appropriate notification (in the priority listed) to the IC, a known officer on the air, or a unit on the scene or on the air of the declaration and/or activation.

IV. Command and Franklin's Response to a **MAYDAY and LUNAR** Transmission(s):

- A. The IC will immediately repeat the LUNAR report given, while all personnel on the incident scene puts all communications on standby and continues with their original assignments unless immediately involved in the MAYDAY/rescue situation.
- B. The IC will confirm the RIT supervisor copies the LUNAR and deploys the RIT for rescue operations.
- C. Upon acknowledging a MAYDAY, the IC should consider additional resources.
- D. When a MAYDAY has been confirmed on an incident, an additional alarm, including an ALS provider, shall be automatically dispatched by Franklin to Level 2 stage and placed on an alternative TG.
 - 1. Franklin shall advise the IC of the dispatch, the staging location and alternative TG when appropriate.
 - 2. Franklin shall advise all additional units dispatched to the incident a MAYDAY has been declared.
- E. At the IC's discretion and when deemed necessary, he/she may request Franklin activate the Emergency Tone (ET) announcing the MAYDAY and LUNAR of the distressed personnel, as well as request an alternative TG for incident operations.
 - 1. Franklin will activate the ET and repeat the IC's request, in which case the IC may designate an Officer In Charge (OIC) for the incident operations and/or the MAYDAY operations.
 - 2. The IC or designee shall ensure a PAR is conducted over the entire incident. This includes all TGs, if multiple TGs are being utilized.
- F. If the radio transmitting the MAYDAY and/or EB activation is on a TG other than the incident TG, or the transmitting radio moves to another TG, it is imperative Franklin makes the appropriate notification to the IC and units/personnel involved in mitigating the situation, so they can ensure their radios are on the TG of the distressed personnel.

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V. Termination of MAYDAY Operations

- A. Once a MAYDAY situation has been mitigated and all operations returned to normal, the IC will make the announcement, which will be repeated by Franklin.
- B. The IC or designee shall ensure a PAR is conducted over the entire incident. This includes all TGs, if multiple TGs are being utilized.