	<b>FRANKLIN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION</b> <b>STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE</b>	Op-4-ET
	TITLE <b>EMERGENCY TONE Operations</b>	DATE 3/1/2012
		Effective Date 4/16/2012


## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE FOR EMERGENCY TONE OPERATIONS

### PURPOSE:

The objective of this guideline is to establish language and procedures outlining the utilization of the Franklin County Department of Emergency Services 400 MHz Communications System Emergency Tone.

### TERMINOLOGY:

- A.    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.
- B.    FRANKLIN – The call sign of Franklin County Department of Emergency Services Communications Talkgroup (TG) Dispatcher/Operators.
- C.    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.
- D.    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.
- E.    LUNAR – The acronym used as a memory aid for persons transmitting critical MAYDAY information to the IC.
- F.    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.
- G.    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.
- H.    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.

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- I. 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 the Utilization of the ET

- A. A declared MAYDAY on an incident.
- B. The evacuation or abandonment of an area or structure presenting an IDLH.
- C. Any other emergency where the condition, circumstance, or event may be life threatening to personnel beyond the scope of the original incident, will affect the outcome of the incident, and/or requires immediate action/notification.

II. Procedure for Utilization of the ET

- A. Upon identification of an incidence warranting the utilization of the ET, the IC shall request Franklin activate the ET, followed by the orders and conditions. Franklin will activate the ET and repeat the IC's request on all TGs being utilized for the incident.
  - 1. Example: IC requests, "Command to Franklin, activate the ET for the MAYDAY from FF John Doe of Truck 3, trapped in the basement, low on air, in need of a ladder for extrication. The RIT has been activated." Franklin activates the ET and repeats the MAYDAY and LUNAR report announced by the IC. (See FCFCA *SOG Op-3-MAY*, for specific MAYDAY Procedures.)
  - 2. Example: IC requests, "Command to Franklin, activate the ET for the evacuation of the structure, due to roof collapse, going to defensive operations." Franklin activates the ET and repeats the IC's orders and conditions.
- B. Considering the time sensitive and critical use of this tone, utilization should be at the IC's discretion and restricted to the above listed conditions.

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- C. Requests for the ET activation should be relayed through the IC. Personnel may begin such requests with, "EMERGENCY or PRIORITY." In the event command has not been established and no officer is on the scene, a unit officer may directly request the ET activation from Franklin, following the above guidelines.
  
- D. In the event the ET is activated for an evacuation or abandonment of a structure **ONLY**, it shall be followed by one ten second blast of all available apparatus' air horns on the scene to ensure all personnel are aware of the IC's orders.
  
- E. After an ET activation and when deemed appropriate, the IC or designee shall ensure a PAR is conducted over the entire incident. This includes all TGs, if multiple TGs are being utilized.