

MCCRACKEN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENTS
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

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RADIO PROCEDURES FOR EMERGENCIES

PURPOSE

Because of the potential for a high volume of radio traffic during and emergency operation the McCracken County Fire Departments must have a procedure that gives priority to an individual who needs to notify the incident commander (IC) of a life-threatening situation that has happened or is about to happen.

MAYDAY, URGENT MESSAGE

- The Mayday transmission is used only in situations that are life threatening to firefighters.
- The urgent message is used for other types of fire ground emergencies.

A Mayday Transmission is needed if:

- Imminent collapse is feared
- Structural collapse has occurred
- A member is unconscious or has suffered a life-threatening injury
- A discovery that a member is missing or separated and unable to contact your partner.
- A member is trapped or lost in a IDLH environment
- Low air alarm or situation.
- A water emergency, in which the vessel the crew is operating from, or a crewmember, is in jeopardy and immediate assistance is needed.
- The MAYDAY includes but is not limited to incidents involving
 - Structure Fire
 - Hazardous Material incident
 - Technical rescue
 - Extrication
 - Or other related events

An Urgent Message is transmitted if:

- A member suffers an injury that requires medical attention but is not life-threatening.
- A change in fire ground strategy (offensive to defensive)
- A condition is discovered that could endanger firefighters, the public or property.
- Fire is entering an exposure.

- A loss of pressure/water occurs
- Command or an Officer needs to gain control of the radio channel

TRANSMISSION PROCEDURES

Mayday

- Key the Mic and announce in increments of three (3) **MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY, UNIT ID number and location** listen for a response if none is heard repeat the message until you are acknowledged. If the IC does not respond after the second transmission anyone who hears the message is responsible to relay it to the IC directly.
- Manually activate your PASS device.
- On receipt of a MAYDAY **ALL RADIO TRAFFIC SHOULD STOP**
- The IC should acknowledge the transmission and relay to “all units at the scene, to standby for a MAYDAY message. Unit with MAYDAY go ahead with your message.”
- There are four universal “Mayday Parameters” developed by the National Fire Academy that apply to structure fires. Each parameter is considered to be an indicator that a firefighter is in a life-threatening situation and needs to call a mayday. The four Mayday Parameters are:
 - **Fall**-Falls involving a change in elevation such as falling through a floor, roof or into a hole
 - **Collapse**-Collapse involving a structural members of the building or substantial objects onto a member.
 - **Lost or Trapped**-Member becomes lost, trapped or disoriented in an IDLH atmosphere.
 - **Stuck**-Member becomes entangled or trapped in an IDLH atmosphere.
- The McCracken County Fire Departments considers additional parameters in which a member can call a mayday:
 - Low air alarm situation, where the member is unlikely to reach safety before depleting their air supply.
 - A Water emergency, in which the vessel the crew is operating from, or a crewmember, is in jeopardy and immediate assistance is needed.
- When transmitting a Mayday call remember
 - Remain Calm
 - Do not shout in to the radio
 - Talk Slowly
 - Keep your message as short as possible
- After acknowledgement by the Incident Commander, the officer or firefighter reporting the Mayday shall provide the following information:
 - **Location**-Where the member believes they are
 - **Unit**-Company the member is assigned to.
 - **Name**-Member’s name
 - **Assignment**-What member was doing (roof vent, search, rescue etc.)
 - **Resources needed**- Any specific resources member can identify.

- It is imperative that firefighters err on the side of caution and report a mayday as soon as they are confronted with a mayday parameter. The mayday can always be cancelled if it is not needed. But if firefighters wait to call a mayday, the window of survivability can close quickly.

DUTIES IN RESPONSE TO MAYDAY

IC responsibilities

- Secure the channel and designate as mayday channel
 - Only those personnel dealing with the MAYDAY operation shall be on the MAYDAY channel.
- Move fire ground operations to another designated channel
- Deploy the necessary resources needed to assist with a rescue.
- Secure PAR (personnel accountability report)
- Deploy RIT
 - The RIT officer should verify the name(s), number(s) and location associated with the MAYDAY
- Assemble an additional RIT as soon as possible

Additional fire ground responsibilities

- Other members operating on the scene should be aware of the MAYDAY
- They must continue with their assigned tasks, the task they are currently performing may very well limit injury to the person or persons in distress as well as assist the RIT team unless they are also in jeopardy
- Any deviation from their assignments must be reported to the IC
- A MAYDAY is not for evacuation.

CLEARING THE MAYDAY

- A mayday situation may be “cleared” (cancelled) when the firefighter reporting the mayday has been rescued or the situation has been resolved. Only the incident commander may order a mayday to be “cleared”, although other officers may make a recommendation to clear the mayday based upon first-hand knowledge that the particular firefighter who requested the mayday has been rescued or the situation has been resolved.
- The Incident Commander must communicate the fact that the mayday has been cleared to all units operating on the scene. The Incident Commander- and only the Incident Commander- shall conclude the mayday by transmitting mayday cleared, resume normal radio traffic. If not previously completed, a PAR/Roll call must be completed immediately upon the mayday being cleared.

Urgent message

- Key the Mic and announce **URGENT, UNIT ID number** listen for a response if none is heard repeat the message until you are acknowledged. If the IC does not respond after the second transmission anyone who hears the message is responsible to relay it to the IC directly.
- On receipt of a URGENT message all radio traffic should stop.
- The IC or Central should acknowledge the transmission and relay to “all units at the scene, to standby for a URGENT message, Unit with URGENT message go ahead”
- Transmit your message
- When transmitting a URGENT message remember
 - Remain Calm
 - Do not shout in to the radio
 - Talk Slowly
 - Keep your message as short as possible

Lone Oak FPD
Fire Chief

Hendron FPD
Fire Chief

Reidland FPD
Fire Chief

Concord FPD
Fire Chief

West McCracken FPD
Fire Chief

Melber/New Hope FPD

