

**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS**

Cumru Township Fire Department  
Standard Operating Guidelines  
Section 15.25

**MAYDAY GUIDELINES**

4/29/2010  
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**15.25 Scope:**

The first section of these guidelines, are designed to outline situations when a “**MAYDAY**” shall be transmitted by a member. The member may be involved in the situation or may have observed the situation unfold. The second section will establish the format that will be used when transmitting emergency information. The third section will establish a list of tasks that need to be preformed once a “**MAYDAY**” has been transmitted. We will attempt to have some of these procedures activate automatically. This may not happen due to conditions beyond our control, i.e.: such as increased activity in communications center. However it is still the IC’s responsibility to perform the steps outlined in these guidelines, not necessarily in the order listed.

**15.2501:** Members shall call for a “**MAYDAY**” when confronted by the following:

1. If you become tangled, pinned, or stuck and your low-air alarm is activated, CALL A “**MAYDAY**”
2. If you become tangled, pinned, or stuck and can not extricate yourself in the first try, CALL A “**MAYDAY**”
3. If you fall through the floor, CALL A “**MAYDAY**”
4. If you fall through the roof, CALL A “**MAYDAY**”
5. If you are caught in a flashover, CALL A “**MAYDAY**”
6. If there is zero visibility and no contact with the hose or lifeline and do not know in which direction the exit is , CALL A “**MAYDAY**”
7. If your primary exit is blocked by fire or collapse and you are not at or cannot see a secondary exit, CALL A “**MAYDAY**”
8. If your low-air alarm is activated and you are not at or can not see an exit door or window, CALL A “**MAYDAY**”
9. If you can not find an exit door or window in 60 seconds, CALL A “**MAYDAY**”

**15.2502:** Process & Content of a “**MAYDAY**” Message;

When a Fire Fighter is faced with any of the parameters outlined in section 15.2501 they shall transmit a “**MAYDAY**” in the following method;

1. Firefighter shall use the portable radio to transmit the following:  
“**MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY**”
2. Await acknowledgement of the **MAYDAY** by Incident Commander. If acknowledgement is not immediate, firefighter shall retransmit the following “**MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY**”

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3. Upon acknowledgment of the MAYDAY by Incident Commander, the firefighter shall use the acronym **LUNAR** to express the following information to the Incident Commander:
  - a. **L is for Location:** where the firefighter is located  
I.e. side a, division 2 bedroom
  - b. **U is for Unit Number:** use the radio designation  
I.e. Engine 42 portable, Deputy 42, Tower 42 officer
  - c. **N is for Name:** who you are  
I.e. Firefighter Joe Smith, Captain Mike Bike
  - d. **A is for Assignment:** what you were doing  
I.e. Search and Rescue, Fire Attack, Salvage
  - e. **R is for Resources:** what do you need  
I.e. Spare SCBA, Wall breach
4. Fire Fighter shall activate the pass device on the SCBA either after acknowledgement or after re-transmitting "MAYDAY".

**15.2503** The following is a list of tasks to be completed by the I.C. upon the transmission of a "MAYDAY";

1. Acknowledge the "MAYDAY".
  - a. This is performed so the firefighter calling for a "MAYDAY" knows that the message has been heard.
2. Move all fire ground radio traffic to an alternate frequency. This will allow for clear communications between R.I.T. and "MAYDAY".
  - a. This is performed to allow uninterrupted communication between the firefighter who transmitted the "MAYDAY," the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT), and the Incident Commander.
3. Activate the rapid intervention team. Assuring that they have all LUNAR information.
  - a. This is performed to get assistance to the firefighter(s) in need as soon as possible.
4. Order a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR). To determine if any other personnel are missing.
  - a. This is performed to establish if any other personnel are in need of assistance.
5. Request the next alarm and an additional R.I.T Company plus 2 additional E.M.S. units of which at least one should be A.L.S.
  - a. This is performed to bolster manpower levels for both fire suppression and the rescue effort.
  - b. This is also performed to provide an increased level of emergency care for all personnel on the scene.
6. The Incident Commander shall also consider requesting a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team.