

# DALTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Standard Operating Procedure

Fire Chief Signature

DATE

**S.O.P.: FO-14**  
**Effective: 06-26-2015**  
**Revised: 09-25-2018**  
**Reviewed: 09-22-2020**

**Title:** Mayday Procedures

**Scope:** All Personnel

**Reference:** NFPA 1561, 1407, 1500, 1561, 1001, 1982

### General Information:

- A. The term **mayday** will be used only when personnel are in an immediate life-threatening situation. The term “emergency traffic” will be used for other emergencies.
- B. All crews working in IDLH environments must have a radio and understand mayday procedures.
- C. A firefighter reporting mayday will have priority over all other radio traffic.
- D. In the event of a mayday, all unaffected personnel shall continue normal fireground operations unless otherwise advised by the IC.

### Procedure:

- A. A firefighter must recognize a mayday parameter and call for the mayday immediately. This shall happen as soon as he/she thinks they are in trouble. The mayday may be cancelled at any time once the situation is corrected and the firefighter is safe and accounted for.
- B. In the event of a Mayday, the following actions shall be taken by the firefighter that is endangered:
  1. Recognize the mayday parameter and remain calm.
  2. Press the orange emergency button on the portable radio or lapel mic. This will give 10 seconds of uninterrupted air-time to give the initial Mayday.

3. Notify command using “Mayday, Mayday, Mayday”.
4. Mayday shall be given using one of the following acronyms:

**LUNAR**

L – Location

U – Unit

N – Name

A – Air remaining in cylinder / Assignment

R – Reason for mayday / Resources needed

**WWW**

W – Where

W – Why

W – Who

5. Once mayday information is acknowledged by command, the firefighter will activate his/her PASS device.
6. Attempt self-rescue, if possible.

C. In the event of a mayday, the following actions shall be taken by the incident commander (IC):

1. Ensure a Rapid Intervention Team is assigned when firefighters are working in IDLH environments.
2. Once a Mayday is received, the IC will advise on the radio “stop all unnecessary radio traffic”.
3. Once a completed Mayday transmission is understood, command will advise the firefighter to activate his/her PASS device.
4. The IC will assign the Rapid Intervention Team to the rescue.
5. The IC will contact dispatch to acquire an additional channel for fire ground operations. They will also request dispatch to monitor the mayday channel and assist as needed. If unable to reach dispatch immediately, fire ground operations may move to DFD main.

6. The IC will move all other radio traffic to a different fireground channel. The person calling mayday, the Rapid Intervention Team, and the IC or his/her designee will continue to operate on the original channel.
7. The IC or his/her designee will assume fireground operations on the newly assigned channel.
8. An additional officer may be utilized in command to manage the mayday or the fire incident at the discretion of the IC. Additional alarms may be struck if the situation dictates.
9. A PAR shall be conducted on the newly assigned channel.
10. The IC shall request an ambulance to respond to the scene if one is not already on location. Additional ambulances may be required if the situation dictates.
11. The chief of the department shall be notified after the mayday is resolved.

D. If a mayday is transmitted on DFD Main and the firefighter is unable to change the channel, the IC will notify dispatch to hold all radio traffic on that channel. During this time, all subsequent calls will be dispatched via an alternate channel assigned by dispatch. If this situation occurs, dispatch will call all available stations to inform them of the change.

E. After the incident, a thorough post-incident analysis and external review shall be performed in a timely manner. If needed, a critical incident stress debriefing may be conducted.

In the event of an inadvertent activation of the orange emergency button, the firefighter will advise “Status Orange” to confirm there is no true emergency.