

DALTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Procedure

S.O.P.: FO-14

Effective: 06/26/2015

Revised: 09/28/2021

Reviewed: 09/27/2022

Fire Chief Signature

DATE

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 information shall be given using the following acronym:

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. 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.
6. 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.
7. The chief of the department shall be notified after the mayday is resolved.

- D. The IC may contact dispatch to acquire an additional channel for fire ground operations. They may also request dispatch to monitor the mayday channel and assist as needed. The IC may move all other radio traffic to a different fireground channel, but the person calling mayday, the Rapid Intervention Team, and the IC or his/her designee should continue to operate on the original channel. If this change occurs, the IC or his/her designee will assume fireground operations on the newly assigned channel and a PAR shall be conducted.
- E. If a mayday is transmitted on DFD Main, 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.
- F. 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.

DALTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Procedure

S.O.P.: FO- 16

Effective: 08-07-2017

Revised: 09-25-2018

Reviewed: 09-27-2022

Fire Chief Signature

DATE

Policy: Emergency Evacuation

Scope: All Personnel

Procedure:

In the event an emergency evacuation order is required, the Incident Commander shall:

- Activate emergency evacuation tone using a portable radio
- Call for all personnel to evacuate the structure or area
- Repeat this process on all channels utilized on the incident
- Conduct a PAR to ensure personnel accountability

All Driver/Operators shall repeatedly sound their apparatus air horns.

If any personnel are unaccounted for or are have not evacuated, the process shall be repeated.

To activate the emergency evacuation tone on a Motorola APX portable radio:

- Select channel you wish to sound evacuation tone
- Key the microphone
- Press orange button after the microphone has been activated
- Hold the microphone button for the desired time, approximately 5 seconds