

POINT PLEASANT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Evacuation / Mayday / Urgent Procedures

Standard Operating Guideline

Purpose:

- To provide a means for communicating an evacuation order and a response to a firefighter down, trapped, disorientated or otherwise incapacitated on the fireground. This guideline will apply to all firefighters and officers operating on the fire ground.

Terminology:

- Mayday- Shall be the standard verbal radio transmission used by any firefighter who becomes disorientated, lost, injured, trapped, out of air, or any other instance where he/she needs immediate assistance.
- Evacuation Order- the immediate termination of interior firefighting operations accompanied by the immediate removal of all firefighters from the structure. It shall be the responsibility of the Incident Commander to request an evacuation order.
- Urgent- Shall be used to identify all other urgent messages for tactical considerations.

Evacuation Procedure:

- In the event of any rapid changes in fire conditions that pose a threat to the firefighters operating inside or around the fireground an evacuation order may be requested by the Incident Commander.
- Any firefighter or officer who observes conditions on the fireground which may pose an immediate threat to the safety of firefighters shall have this information immediately relayed to the Incident Commander.
- Conditions that warrant immediate Incident Commander notification would be:
 - An increased fire spread even with interior firefighting operations taking place
 - Partial or full building collapse
 - Structural hazards such as truss roofs or large heaters and air conditioners positioned on top of roofs
 - Any other potential hazards that may possess an immediate threat to firefighters.
- Upon receiving this information the incident commander will make the decision if an evacuation order is warranted.

Initiating the Evacuation Order:

- The Incident Commander will immediately broadcast an urgent message for all interior firefighters to stop what they are doing and immediately evacuate the structure.
- The Incident Commander will then communicate with the engine operator that is positioned closest to the front of the building or fireground, “ Division A”, requesting (3) five second blasts with the engines air horn. These initial blasts will be followed by (3) five second blasts from other apparatus air horns that is positioned on every side of the building or fireground. The order will be performed in a clockwise manner. Example: (3) five second blasts from an apparatus positioned at Division B, (3) five second blasts from an apparatus positioned at Division C, and (3) five second blast from an apparatus positioned at Division C.. These blasts are initiated as a back up in the event that radio communications are ineffective in relaying the evacuation order. These blasts may be re-initiated at anytime during this procedure at the discretion of the Incident Commander.
- All members operating on the fire ground will return to their assigned unit for an Personnel Accountability Roll-Call (PAR)
- It shall be the responsibility of the officer/firefighter in charge of the interior crew to ensure compliance with the evacuation order and to check in at the command post once they have safely evacuated.
- The Incident Commander may request an incident wide personnel accountability report when it is undetermined that all officers/firefighters are safely evacuated. In the event this is requested all non-emergency radio communications will cease and officers/firefighters in charge will take account of members operating within their span of control and report any missing members to the Incident Commander.

Mayday Procedure:

- In the event a firefighter is down, trapped, disorientated or otherwise incapacitated, the firefighter or their partner will immediately, without hesitation, issue a “MAYDAY” over the fireground channel.
- This will serve to notify the Incident Commander, F.A.S.T. Command, and all other companies operating at the incident that a firefighter is in need of immediate emergency assistance.
- Upon hearing the MAYDAY all radio transmissions on the fireground will switch to channel **15** with the exception of the firefighter initiating the MAYDAY and the Incident Commander, or any other Chief Officer designated by the Incident Commander.
- All officers/firefighters in charge of crews should take an immediate roll call and report any discrepancies to the Incident Commander.

Reasons a Mayday Message Should be Transmitted:

- Imminent Collapse Feared
- Structural Collapse has Occurred
- A firefighter is unconscious or is suffering a life threatening injury
- An Officer realizes a member is lost / A firefighter realizes an Officer is lost
- You become lost or trapped

Radio Procedure for issuing a Mayday

- The firefighter calling the MAYDAY will start the radio transmission with the following: "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY"
- The MAYDAY firefighter should then relay the following information after the Incident Commander acknowledges the transmission:
 - The location where assigned
 - Where they are now
 - What their assignment was
 - Who they were assigned with
 - What the situation is (lost, trapped, injured, running out of air, etc.)

L-U-N-A-R

- (L) Last Known Location
- (U) Unit
- (N) Name
- (A) Assignment
- (R) Radio Equipped

If possible the MAYDAY firefighter should do the following:

- activate your PASS alarm
- Make noise to draw attention to your location. (Banging a tool on the wall or floor.)
- Remain calm and conserve air (do not yell or scream)

Responsibilities of all other Firefighters

Firefighters operating at the incident shall remain in their assigned positions and continue to do their jobs. It shall be the responsibility of the FAST team to locate and rescue a firefighter who has issued a MAYDAY.

Urgent Procedure:

- An "Urgent" message will be transmitted by any firefighter operating on the fireground to communicate information to the Incident Commander and firefighters
- The firefighter will announce their unit and position and advise the Incident Commander of an "Urgent" message
- After the Incident Commander acknowledges the "Urgent," the firefighter will transmit the "Urgent" message

Reasons to transmit an “Urgent” message

- a rapid change in fire conditions
- loss of water or ineffectiveness of hose stream
- problems with getting hand-line into operation
- unique building condition
- inability to protect firefighters on the floor above (crews backing out)
- swimming pole in the yard
- or other safety information that warrants the attention of Incident Commander and firefighters operating on the fireground