

	Standard Operating Guideline – West Fargo Fire Department		01.015
	Subject: Firefighter Distress		
	Section: Deployment and Safety		
	Date Authorized: 12/1/2019	Authorized by:	
Date Reviewed: 10/1/2020	Chief Daniel Fuller		

Intent

To establish standard procedures to signal a firefighter in distress or emergency

References

Definitions

Guideline

1. Radio Traffic
 - a. A firefighter in distress should immediately convey a need for help by transmitting a Mayday over the radio. The firefighter should transmit, “Mayday, mayday, mayday”. Any form of emergency radio traffic is acceptable, but the term Mayday is reserved specifically for a firefighter in distress
 - b. A company officer or other supervisor should call a Mayday for a missing firefighter and it should be assumed the missing firefighter is in danger until known otherwise
 - c. All other units should stop any kind of radio transmission and allow the emergency traffic to proceed
 - d. Do not hesitate to call a Mayday. A Mayday is any situation in which a firefighter is in distress and not just trapped firefighters.
 - e. The firefighter transmitting the Mayday should try to convey location, unit, and needs (e.g. air supply) at a minimum, but using the acronym LUNAR is ideal
 - i. L= Location
 - ii. U= Unit
 - iii. N= Name
 - iv. A= Assignment
 - v. R= Resources needed

2. Command Actions
 - a. Deploy Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)
 - i. Rescue 75, Ladder 76 have RIT bags
 - b. Request an extra alarm, with additional medical units
 - c. Designate a staging area
 - d. Close the channel if not already done
 - e. Expand the command organization
 - f. Assign a rescue group supervisor
 - g. Assign a medical group supervisor
 - h. Ensure sufficient medial resources are on the scene
 - i. Assign a safety officer solely for the RIT team operation
 - j. Assign an aide to the IC to monitor the rescue situation
 - k. Move all on scene operations to another channel
 - l. Maintain fire operations, if safe to do so

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- m. Open (if it doesn't affect fire behavior) or unlock all windows and doors
 - n. Conduct a PAR
 - o. Assign a PIO (Department and City PIO)
 - p. Designate a family support branch officer to coordinate family support
 - i. Contact family
 - ii. Rides to the hospital
 - iii. Staying with family at hospital
3. Individual actions for others on scene not affected by the emergency
- a. Contribute to the solution
 - b. Provide relevant feedback or information through the ICS structure
 - c. Continue with current assignment until directed otherwise
 - d. Discontinue actions immediately when directed to do so
4. Red River Regional Dispatch Center (RRRDC) actions
- a. Monitor all fire ground channels
 - b. Assign a tactical radio operator whose sole function is to monitor the incident if not already done
 - c. Verify any emergency button activation
 - d. Contact radio user to determine if emergency exists
 - e. Maintain communication with firefighter in distress and notify command that contact has been made
 - f. Avoid talking over other radio traffic for dispatching unrelated calls
 - g. Life threatening situation radio traffic
 - h. Any situation or condition that is immediately life threatening should be announced by saying, "Emergency, emergency, emergency" over the radio.
 - i. All other units should stop any radio transmissions and allow the emergency traffic to proceed.
 - j. Upon command's receipt of the emergency traffic, the IC shall retransmit the warning and seek acknowledgement from all companies, groups, or divisions operating at the scene.
5. Emergency building evacuation
- a. In the event of a building collapse or learning of imminent danger, the incident commander shall signal for an emergency evacuation
 - b. The IC shall announce over the fire ground frequencies, "Emergency, emergency, emergency. Evacuate the building immediately."
 - c. Three, two second blasts will be sounded from the air horns three times
 - d. All firefighters shall evacuate and report to their leader, officer, division supervisor, etc.
 - e. The IC shall initiate a PAR
 - f. Officers shall perform a roll call and inform command of their status

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- g. Open microphone
- h. The **yelp** siren shall be activated for a short duration when there is an open microphone and repeated until the situation is remedied.
- i. An open microphone is indicated on a portable by a steady red light.

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