



# NORFOLK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC

119 YEARS OF SERVICE

JULY 1902 - JULY 2021



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## MAY-DAY SOG

The rescue of a trapped, lost, injured, ill, disoriented Firefighter(s) is a highly time sensitive situation due to a limited air supply. Therefore, it is imperative that all personnel understand and implement the MAYDAY call guidelines precisely.

### Making/Declaring a MAYDAY Call

- o The downed Firefighter or a member of their team shall transmit “MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY” over the radio. Mayday must be said verbally (3) three times in succession over the radio on the proper interior radio channel being utilized.
- o Once acknowledged by the Operations officer or Incident Commander, the initial mayday call shall immediately be followed by W,W,W:
  - Who are you
  - Where are you(or last known area/floor)
  - What is the problem

After advising the R.I.T. Team of the downed firefighter, The I.C/Operations shall ask more questions if needed to facilitate rescue efforts using L.U.N.A.R. if not already established.

- Location
- Unit
- Nature of problem
- Air Supply
- Resources Needed

If alone, the downed Firefighter should then activate their P.A.S.S. alarm. If in a team, it should be determined if activating the P.A.S.S. alarm will assist with rescue operations.

If the Firefighter is unable to verbalize, The downed Firefighter shall activate their P.A.S.S. alarm by pressing the red emergency button on the unit.

If the Firefighter is unable to verbalize or physically activate their PASS alarm, Not moving and being still will also cause the PASS alarm to activate by itself.

## **Response to MAYDAY Call**

When hearing a MAYDAY call: Only the IC/Operations/R.I.T. Officer will transmit on the mayday channel until the emergency is cleared. The Firefighter declaring the Mayday and all rescue efforts/R.I.T. Team will have priority to the radio channel that the Mayday was called on.

All other communications will switch to an alternative Fireground/Scene channel as determined by Command/Operations.

Personnel are not to abandon their work assignments unless instructed to do so by the IC or unless personal safety is threatened. While the rescue of a downed firefighter will take precedence, the continuation of suppression and related activities may be necessary in order to accomplish the rescue. All personnel are to continue and carry out their initial assignments until directed otherwise.

The only exception to this response is when Firefighters, without compromising scene safety, are in immediate proximity to the downed Firefighter. In such a situation, rescue should be initiated. This action is to be verbalized to the IC/Operations

All firefighters are to monitor the IC's communications. The IC or RIT Officer will determine how the rescue will be made, which personnel will be used, and if non-essential firefighters are to evacuate the building.

If deemed necessary, The IC will reposition the ambulance and EMS personnel as close to the scene as possible. A request for a second ambulance to the scene and a medic will also be made.

The IC will, as soon as practical, commence a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) to be certain that all personnel are accounted for. Depending on the nature of the incident, this task may need to be performed at the same time as the rescue operations.

## **Cancelling/Clearing a MAYDAY Call**

At any time the mayday firefighter may cancel the mayday, if the problem has been rectified. This must be communicated to the IC or his designee in charge of the mayday.

The IC will advise when general radio communication may resume.

It is important to keep all radio transmissions to an absolute minimum unless your message is urgent or another Mayday is being declared. Firefighters are to maintain radio silence.