

Lapeer County Fire Association

POLICY: LCFA-03-02

DATE ADOPTED: 09/10/03

LAST REVIEWED: 2011

DATE LAST REVISED: 03/08/06; 07/13/11

REVISION #: 2

MAY DAY POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to insure that all personnel are aware of what situations require calling a May Day and are familiar with the procedures used by all Lapeer County Fire Departments in the event a MAYDAY is called.

DEFINITIONS

Incident Commander (IC): Person in overall charge at the scene of an incident.

Incident Safety Officer (ISO): Person assigned responsibilities of all safety-related issues at the scene of an incident.

“MAYDAY”: The term “MAYDAY”, used by a firefighter(s) who has/have become lost, disoriented, trapped or injured in a building/structure and are unable to exit the building/structure without outside assistance. ***MAYDAY is not a used to identify a call for an emergency evacuation!***

Personnel Accountability Report (PAR): A systematic method used to confirm that all personnel assigned to a group, division, unit, or incident have been identified and accounted for (i.e.; “Engine 321 to Command, I have a PAR”, indicating that all personnel assigned to E-321 are accounted for; or “Division B to Command, I do not have a PAR from the crew operating on the 2nd floor, Division B”, indicating that personnel have not been accounted for and may be in trouble).

Rapid Intervention Team (RIT): A team of at least two (2) firefighters who are equipped with appropriate tools and assigned to perform rescue of a firefighter or crew if the need arises.

POLICY

Situations that require calling a MAYDAY include:

- Tangled, pinned, or stuck and cannot free self in 60 seconds
- Fall through a roof
- Caught in a flash over
- Fall through a floor
- Zero visibility and disoriented
- Failure of your SCBA
- Primary exit is blocked by fire or collapse and no secondary exit
- Low air alarm sounds and you're not at an exit within 30 seconds
- Anytime you feel your safety is or is about to become compromised

The radio message "MAYDAY" will be used by firefighters to report their status as being in trouble and needing rescue. Any member may use "MAYDAY" to report a lost or trapped firefighter. "MAYDAY" is to be repeated to insure that it is heard. Example: "*MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY. This is Firefighter Smith and I'm trapped by a ceiling collapse at the north end of the 2nd floor*".

Any report of MAYDAY will receive priority radio traffic. In the event of a MAYDAY, as much pertinent information as possible should be forwarded to the IC (i.e. type of emergency, lost firefighter, trapped firefighter, collapse of structure, fallen through floor/roof, last known location - roof, 1st, 2nd etc. floor, basement, side A, B, C, or D, etc.). The IC will then announce MAYDAY again over the assigned incident channel(s) that a firefighter is lost or in trouble and will then initiate a rescue operation. A PAR will also be conducted as soon as possible to account for the location of all personnel operating at the incident scene.

In the event a MAYDAY is called, the IC will immediately meet with the RIT members to confirm the location of the personnel in trouble, determine the most favorable route of entry/access, and provide additional instructions. As soon as the RIT(s) are committed, at least one additional RIT shall be formed immediately. Any time a MAYDAY is called and the RIT(s) are committed, the IC will request another department and an additional ALS unit be dispatched to the scene.

Once the MAYDAY has been initiated all unnecessary radio traffic shall cease. After a MAYDAY has been declared, the only radio communications allowed on the assigned incident channel are to be between the incident commander, RIT members, and the trapped or disoriented firefighter(s). Unless specifically directed to cease their operations by a division officer or the IC, all suppression activities are to continue.

Communication should be face to face whenever possible. Any radio traffic that may indicate the status or location of the lost or trapped firefighter(s) shall be immediately forwarded to the IC.

Once the firefighter(s) is rescued, the IC will announce over the assigned incident channel(s) that the May Day is all clear.