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Ocean City Fire Department  
Standard Operating Guidelines

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## Operations

Subject: Retreat Procedures  
Revised: 7-1-09  
Effective: 10-20-09  
Approved: 9-24-09 (Fire Chief)  
Section: 406.00

### 406.01 Purpose

To establish procedures for immediate retreat (emergency evacuation) of members involved in interior structural firefighting. This procedure shall be used whenever any condition relating to a structure fire indicates that Members within the structure or in the collapse zone are in eminent danger and need to be removed.

### 406.02 Procedure

- A. Retreat signals shall be given by both verbal (radio) and audible (air horn) alerts.
  1. Verbal: The Incident Commander upon observing an unsafe condition or after being notified by either a Sector Officer or Safety Officer, shall contact Communications and order a retreat.
  2. Audible: Upon hearing the radio transmission for retreat, all pump operators will sound the following signal three (3) times with the air horn: Steady ten (10) second blast.
- B. All Members in the structure are to abandon their position and exit the building immediately.
- C. All Members are to retreat to a safe location with his/her crew and wait for accountability roll call. Crew leaders will acknowledge Accountability Officer with:
  1. Crew # or Engine # or ID# OK if all personnel are present
  2. Crew # or Engine # or ID # "MISSING NUMBER OF PERSONS" if all personnel are not present.
- D. The Accountability Officer will notify the Incident Commander of the status of the roll call.
  1. All accounted for will be denoted as an "ALL CREWS ACCOUNTED FOR".
  2. Any missing member will be denoted as "NUMBER OF PERSONS MISSING" and an immediate search will be initiated.
- E. After the "ALL CREWS ACCOUNTED FOR" has been announced the Incident Commander may reassign crews.

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- F. Upon hearing a MAYDAY transmission, all radio users not involved in the MAYDAY will cease transmitting until the Incident Commander lifts the restriction.
- G. Any firefighter that requires emergency assistance and is radio equipped shall, follow MAYDAY Procedures in SOG 419.0.
- H. Any member that requires emergency assistance and is not radio equipped shall activate his/her PASS device to the "ON" position and wait for assistance.