
Ocean City Fire Department
Standard Operating Guidelines

Operations

Subject: "MAYDAY" Procedures
Revised: 7-1-09
Effective: 10-20-09
Approved: 9-24-09 (Fire Chief)
Section: 419.00

419.01 Purpose

To establish guidelines and procedures that members are to utilize when they require emergency assistance. These procedures shall be used whenever members find themselves lost, disoriented, trapped, or in any other similar danger. The use of these procedures is intended to assist in expediting their rescue, in an effort to avoid injury or death.

419.02 Procedure

- A. Members in need of assistance, because they are facing a life threatening situation, shall initiate the "MAYDAY" procedures by performing the following:
1. Initiate radio communications.
 - a. Announce a "MAYDAY-MAYDAY-MAYDAY", if radio equipped, on the operations channel.
 - b. Once communications have been established the person(s) requiring assistance will give a report to the IC using the L.U.N.A.R. format:
 - Location
 - Unit number/name
 - Number of members requiring assistance
 - Assignment
 - Resources needed for rescue (air, SCBA components, tools...)
 2. Activate your PASS device manually.
 3. The member(s) in distress will provide updates on their status to the IC, the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor and the RIT. This is particularly important if the member(s) in distress is on the move and attempting self-rescue.
 4. If the member(s) requiring assistance cannot communicate with the IC, they shall activate the emergency button on their radio. Once activated, this will allow the member(s) to transmit over the emergency channel. This transmission should follow the L.U.N.A.R. format. Members requiring assistance shall then activate their PASS devices.
 - a. Communications shall then inform the IC of the transmission.

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5. The P.A.S.S.S.S. mnemonic is a convenient way to remember the steps that should be performed in a MAY-DAY: This is to be used in conjunction with radio communications:
 - a. Do not **P**anic
 - b. **A**ctivate the PASS device manually.
 - c. **S**tay together as a unit.
 - d. **S**ound a MAYDAY.
 - e. **S**earch to an avenue of escape or area of safety (if physically capable)
 - f. **S**hine a light towards the ceiling, this will serve as a beacon for the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT).
- B. Once a MAYDAY is called, the following shall occur:
 1. The Incident Commander (IC) will order all units operating at the incident to maintain radio silence.
 2. The IC will then attempt to establish communications with the person(s) who declared the MAYDAY.
 3. If communications cannot be established the IC will consult the accountability system/officer to determine the last known location, on the incident scene, of the person(s) who declared MAYDAY.
 4. Once this information is provided, the IC will place the RIT in service in order to locate, assist, and remove the member(s) in distress.
 5. The IC will appoint a Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor to oversee the rescue efforts.
 6. Fire ground operations will switch to a separate channel from that of the "MAYDAY".
 7. The IC, Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor, the RIT, and members in distress shall be the only units operating on the channel on which the MAYDAY was transmitted.
- B. Command **WILL NOT** be transferred during a MAYDAY situation.
- C. All other personnel not assigned to the rescue efforts will carry on with their assigned tasks and not abandon them. It is imperative that these personnel have the discipline to continue to perform their assigned tasks, because if the incident can be controlled, it is more likely that the member(s) in distress will survive their predicament.