



Solano County Fire Chiefs Association GUIDELINES

Guideline Name:	MAYDAY / EMERGENCY TRAFFIC
Number:	09
Revision / Reviewed Date:	April 30, 2018

I. Purpose

To establish an operational guideline for communications by firefighting personnel on an incident. This communication plan is intended to be for ALL RISK SITUATIONS. Such incidents may involve, structure fires, vehicle accidents, vegetation fires, technical rescues, etc. The intent of this policy is to identify the different types of communication to be used whether a Firefighter is in need of assistance, important information shared, or an evacuation is needed.

II. Responsibility

All Solano County fire agencies are responsible for understanding and following this guideline.

It is the responsibility of all individuals on scene to use this communication plan during an emergency incident. The supervisor(s) on an incident are directly responsible for monitoring and relaying pertinent radio traffic. All personnel on the incident shall refrain from excessive radio traffic during a "MAYDAY" or "EMERGENCY TRAFFIC" broadcast. Survivability will depend on personnel being disciplined in radio traffic during an emergency situation.

Pertinent information such as "MAYDAY" or "EMERGENCY TRAFFIC" needs to be relayed to the immediate supervisor immediately.

III. Procedure

A. EMERGENCY TRAFFIC

1. The term, "EMERGENCY TRAFFIC", will only be used by personnel who need to declare important information.
 - a. This may include structural integrity issues, potential safety issues on the incident or situations needing immediate assistance.
 - b. "EMERGENCY TRAFFIC" should be used to report a firefighter or civilian injury on the fireground.

B. MAYDAY

1. Firefighters who are in need of emergency assistance should declare a "MAYDAY" over the assigned channel that they are on at the time of the incident.
2. If you are assigned to a tactical channel and have no success in reaching your immediate supervisor or incident commander, declare a "MAYDAY" on the command channel or primary dispatch channel.



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3. The dispatcher shall contact the incident commander and relay the "MAYDAY" information
4. Firefighters should declare a "MAYDAY" early on so as to allow time for reaction by rescue companies on the incident.
5. When a firefighter is requesting emergency assistance, the individual shall announce "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY" and provide LUNAR information over the radio.

Location: Where you are

Unit: The unit you are assigned.

Name: Who you are and/or the person who requires assistance.

Assignment/Air: What are you doing? Air?

Resource: What resources are needed to effect the rescue?

6. It is important for the individual to stay calm when declaring the emergency so that the immediate supervisor or incident commander has a better chance of hearing the announcement. Additional details can be found in the rapid intervention crew tactics plan (Guideline # 10).
7. "MAYDAY" shall be broadcasted by any firefighter involved in any of these situations:
 - Fall and in need of assistance
 - Any situation which requires you to activate your PASS Alert, such as a low or out of air condition, distress, medical emergency (Always call for help BEFORE activating PASS Alert manually)
 - Caught in an entanglement and cannot self-extricate in the first attempt
 - Lost or disoriented, separated from hoseline, don't know the way out.
 - Trapped or cut off by debris, fire, smoke, and heat
 - Struck by vehicle
 - Burned over, entrapped, or surrounded by fire
8. Once a "MAYDAY" has been declared, the following actions should be taken by the incident commander:
 - a. The incident commander shall clear all radio traffic from the radio channel in use by stating, "ALL UNITS ON THE INCIDENT HOLD YOUR TRAFFIC".
 - b. The incident commander shall acknowledge the "MAYDAY" by the individual requesting emergency assistance and ascertain LUNAR information from the person(s) calling the "MAYDAY"



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- c. Implement the rapid intervention crew tactical plan. (see Guideline # 10)
- d. The incident commander shall notify dispatch of the "MAYDAY"
- e. Care shall be taken to keep fire suppression activities intact during a "MAYDAY"
- f. Radio discipline must be maintained by all personnel during a "MAYDAY" situation