

Purpose:

To identify the proper procedure when handling an emergency situation involving a firefighter or crew lost, entangled, trapped, disoriented, injured or in need of assistance during fire ground operations. This procedure also addresses 800MHz Emergency Distress Button Activations.

The radio message “May-Day” will be used by firefighters to report their status as being lost, trapped or injured and in need of rescue. Any member may use a “May-Day” to report a lost firefighter/crew. Any report of “May-Day” will receive priority radio traffic. The term “May-Day” will be reserved only to report a lost, trapped or injured firefighter/crew.

Procedure:

1. In the event of a firefighter or crew becoming trapped, lost, entangled, disoriented, and/or injured or otherwise in need of assistance, the firefighter/crew shall remain calm. The firefighter/crew should call on the operations talk group and state...“May-Day, May-Day, May-Day” and give the appropriate LUNAR information to the Incident Commander.

If this procedure fails to gain the attention of the Incident Commander or C-COM, or the firefighter/crew is unable to transmit vocally, the firefighter/crew shall activate the Emergency Button on their radio. Once C-COM has acknowledged the “May-Day” the firefighter shall if possible give the appropriate LUNAR information:

1. L- Location
2. U- Unit
3. N- Name
4. A- Air Supply
5. R- Resources

*If possible the firefighter/crew should provide the following information:

1. What their status is in regards to any injuries or entrapments
2. What the fire and smoke conditions are
3. Their point of entry into the structure

2. Any confirmed MAY-DAY or Emergency Button Activation C-COM shall, at the direction of the IC, patch the assigned operations talk group with the appropriate EMG talk group (EMG-MFD or EMG-UCFD). If the event involves City and County fire resources operating on the same scene, BOTH EMG talk groups should be patched together with the assigned operations talk group.
3. Upon receipt of a “MAY-DAY”, the incident commander and C-COM shall immediately transmit alert tone three (3) for three (3) seconds followed by a verbal message stating **“MAY-DAY Acknowledged, all fire ground operations switch their radio traffic to “_____” talk group (next available talk group)”**. This message shall be stated on the assigned operations talk group for that incident. Following the change to the newly assigned talk group, a personnel accountability report (PAR) shall be conducted. In addition, the channel marker shall be activated in order to provide an open and clear frequency for the May-Day transmitted.

Emergency Button Activations

1. Upon receipt of a May-Day by activation of the Emergency Button, C-COM shall immediately state "May-Day acknowledged" on the EMG talk group, incident assigned talk group, and notify the Incident Commander. The incident commander shall assign the RIC to the EMG talk group to establish direct communication with downed firefighter/crew. C-COM shall monitor this communication closely.
2. The C-COM supervisor should take over all other active EMS/Fire talk groups. The EMS/Fire telecommunicator along with the incident commander or their designee shall monitor the talk group with the declared May-Day. The C-COM supervisor shall dispatch one (1) additional EMS unit and one (1) additional medium or heavy rescue company, emergency traffic to an assigned staging area, or unless otherwise directed by incident command. In addition, the following notification shall be made to the on-duty EMS Supervisor, on-call city/county fire investigator, and page or call Monroe Fire Admin if the event involves Monroe Fire Department personnel or the fire chief of the department of which the involved personnel are from.
3. The telecommunicator shall closely monitor all other talk groups for any transmissions by the missing firefighter/crew. If the missing firefighter/crew transmits on another talk group other than the assigned talk group, the telecommunicator will remain in contact with that firefighter/crew. C-COM shall also notify incident command. It is essential communications are maintained once established.
4. At the time incident command advises the "MAY-DAY" situation is clear, the telecommunicator will advise on the operations talk group **"MAY-DAY CLEAR, ALL UNITS RESUME NORMAL RADIO TRAFFIC"**.