

**Policy:** “MAYDAY” Communications

**Purpose:** To establish a guideline for calling a “mayday” in emergency situations. This policy will establish a step-by-step procedure for doing so, in an effort to ensure the safety of all firefighters.

**Scope:** Applies to all NPPFD personnel

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### **Policy-Declaring a MAYDAY**

When an emergency responder identifies that he/she, or a member of his/her team is lost, trapped, disoriented, or injured and in need of assistance, he/she shall (if possible) transmit a verbal message on the tactical channel to command.

1. The individual shall state to command: “**MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY!**”
2. The individual reporting shall provide the following information:
  - L:** Location- where you are, or where the problem is
  - U:** Unit- what is your identifier in addition to your name
  - N:** Nature of the MAYDAY- what is the exact problem
  - A:** Assignment (per the Incident Management System)- what was your assignment (i.e. “First Floor Sector”)?
  - R:** Resources Needed- what do you need?
3. The distressed firefighter should remain on the tactical channel assigned- all other operations should move to a different channel.
4. The PASS Device should then be activated.
5. Lost or trapped firefighters should remain together.

### **Command response to a MAYDAY**

1. Upon receipt of a MAYDAY, command should advise all personnel that all radio traffic must cease.
2. Only radio traffic pertinent to the MAYDAY should be permitted on the tactical channel.
3. Immediately conduct a Personnel Accountability Roll Call, if the identification and location of the lost or trapped firefighter is unknown.
4. Commit the Rapid Intervention Team to the most appropriate location to initiate a rescue.

5. Provide a Brief Progress Report to radio operator and request an additional tactical channel for incident operations not associated with the MAYDAY event.
6. Command should notify all fireground personnel to announce the conclusion of the MAYDAY event and return to normal operations.

By the Order of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fire Chief

Date: \_\_\_\_\_