

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND TACTICAL OPERATIONS MANUAL

SERIES 355

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINE **MAY-DAY TRANSMISSIONS**

PURPOSE

To identify the roles and responsibilities of all the parties involved at an incident where a “May-Day” has been transmitted, as well as establish standard language for firefighters to report their status as lost, trapped, injured, or otherwise incapacitated and requiring rescue.

The investigations of many firefighter fatalities indicate a rescue may have been successful had the firefighters called for help immediately before continuing to work on self-extrication, the calls were acknowledged immediately, and handled as emergencies by Incident Command (IC). These investigations have listed firefighters’ reluctance to call for help as a contributing factor to fatal outcomes.

DEFINITIONS

ASLIP: An acronym utilized by the IC to quickly gather information about the crew that transmitted the May-Day

Air: How much air does your crew have (member with lowest psi)

Situation: What created the emergency (collapse, fall through floor)

Location: Where are you? (floor, corner of structure, what room)

Intent: What is your plan? (retreating to basement, holding position)

PAR: Is your crew present & accounted for? Are there any conditions that need to be relayed, such as fatigue or injuries?

MAY-DAY: term used to call for help when trapped, lost or injured. It is repeated three times followed by your unit identifier. This code has priority over all other radio transmissions on the frequency.

RIT: (Rapid Intervention Team) crew standing by to conduct an immediate rescue when May-Day is transmitted.

PROCEDURE

- I. All personnel operating on the emergency scene shall utilize the term May-Day to identify possible and/or immediate hazards to their person or their company. Any member may use it to report other companies missing, as well.

Adopted: 1-97

Revised: 2-05

II. A May-Day shall be transmitted with any of the following hazards:

1. Personnel are separated from and unable to locate their crew within 30 seconds
2. Personnel are disoriented and unable to locate their egress within 30 seconds
3. Personnel have fallen through a floor, roof, or other confining structure
4. Personnel are tangled, pinned or otherwise trapped and unable to self-extricate within 30 seconds
5. Personnel's low air bells have activated and they are not at an egress within 30 seconds
6. Personnel's primary egress is blocked or cut off
7. Personnel are caught in a dynamic smoke or fire event (flashover, smoke explosion, etc)
8. Personnel have zero visibility and have no contact with a wall, rope line, hose line, etc.
9. Personnel's protective equipment is not performing as designed

RESPONSIBILITIES

I. COMPANY TRANSMITTING MAY-DAY:

1. Remain calm
2. Communicate the situation to the IC in a clear, concise manner
 - A. "May-Day, May-Day, May-Day, Engine 311 is trapped by a collapsed ceiling in the auditorium"
3. Conserve breathing air
4. Monitor operational frequency unless directed otherwise
5. Self-extricate using hose lines, rope lines, or alternate paths of egress
6. Activate PASS devices
7. Maintain company integrity
8. Identify location if unable to self-extricate (radio, voice, banging, using flashlights, PASS devices, etc)
9. Move to F-1 and transmit May-Day if unable to transmit on operational frequency

II. INCIDENT COMMANDER

1. Acknowledge & repeat the May-Day if Dispatch doesn't acknowledge first.
2. Gather pertinent info needed for the rescue with the ASLIP acronym***(definitions)
3. Implement a rescue plan
4. Deploy RIT
5. Backfill RIT
6. Request additional resources (alarms, medical, equipment, etc)
7. Provide direction to other companies on scene immediately

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8. Request an emergency tone & broadcast the rescue resolution to all companies on scene and Dispatch
9. Conduct an emergency roll call
10. Identify operational & rescue frequencies
11. Assign additional command functions as needed for rescue, safety, operations, etc.
12. Conduct a risk analysis of the rescue attempt

III. COMPANIES ENGAGED IN NON RESCUE OPERATIONS:

1. Monitor operational frequency for orders & roll call
2. Do not broadcast on operational or rescue frequencies unless directed to do so
3. Maintain your previous assignment until reassigned by IC (free lancing diminishes the coordinated rescue effort)
4. Be prepared to operate on another frequency when identified by IC or Dispatch

IV. DISPATCH CENTER:

1. Repeat any May-Day they hear along with all broadcasted information
2. Announce priority traffic only & all units standby for emergency PAR.
3. Monitor all frequencies for incident traffic and open carriers, in the event that trapped or injured crews cannot transmit on the operational frequency due to heavy traffic
4. Ready for a roll call request
5. Transfer other incidents off the operational frequency
6. Identify and clear other frequencies for use as the IC's requests