

# LAKEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

SOG NUMBER: 301.05	EMERGENCY OPERATIONS
DATE IMPLEMENTED: JUNE 14, 2017 DATE REVISED:	TITLE: MAYDAY & URGENT REQUESTS

## PURPOSE:

These provisions are promulgated and designed to provide a structured approach for use in situations where immediate communication is necessary to protect life or prevent injury when operating at any incident or activity in which the Department becomes involved. The provisions shall be followed whenever personnel are required to work in an environment that requires the use of self-contained breathing apparatus, or where personnel may become lost, trapped, or injured by the environment.

## SCOPE:

This guideline shall apply to all Department personnel operating at any emergency scene.

## RADIO TRANSMISSIONS:

1. Radio transmissions using the words "MAYDAY" or "URGENT" are to be used with discretion, and shall only be used as indicated in this S.O.G. **Whenever the terms "MAYDAY" or "URGENT" are transmitted, all radio communications on the frequency are to cease, except those between the member initiating the emergency and the Incident Commander.** The member transmitting the distress signal will begin by repeating "MAYDAY" or "URGENT" three times followed by the remainder of the message. Normal radio communications may be resumed upon completion of the emergency message unless the Incident Commander orders otherwise.

## CONDITIONS THAT MAY TRIGGER A "MAYDAY:"

1. Anytime a unit or member is in extreme danger.
2. Becoming trapped or entangled.
3. Cut off by fire.
4. Cut off by collapse.
5. Falling through a roof or floor.
6. Any SCBA failure.
7. Firefighter down.
8. Becoming lost or disoriented, or losing a member of your crew.
9. Anytime a PASS device is fully activated and a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) confirms a member in distress.
10. Structural Collapse during interior firefighting.
11. Air supply is less than required to exit the IDHL atmosphere.
12. Or any other life-threatening condition not listed above.

## CALLING A MAYDAY:

1. A member becoming aware of a MAYDAY situation is to immediately contact the Incident Commander as follows: "MAYDAY-MAYDAY-MAYDAY, Pine Street Command from Engine 7401, MAYDAY."
2. The Incident Commander will respond in the following format: Engine 7401 from Pine Street Command, proceed with your "MAYDAY."
3. The member with the emergency message will respond in the following format: "MAYDAY- (state injury or problem)." The member should provide the following information using the acronym LUNAR.
  - L – Location (current or last known) and what happened
  - U – Unit #
  - N – Name (member ID)
  - A – Assignment (what you were assigned to do) and Air Supply remaining
  - R – Resources needed
4. The incident commander shall immediately assign the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) to begin rescue of the affected firefighter(s).
5. Fireground personnel will want to assist in finding the lost, injured or trapped firefighter; however, it is imperative ongoing firefighting operations continue and the specific RIT unit be assigned to locate the personnel in distress.
6. Upon activating the RIT on the scene the Incident Commander must immediately replace the activated RIT.

## CONDITIONS THAT MAY TRIGGER AN "URGENT:"

1. Anytime there is a serious condition or change in conditions.
2. A firefighter has suffered an injury that is not immediately life threatening, but requires medical assistance.
3. Signs of structural instability indicating danger of imminent structural collapse.
4. Sudden increase in fire or smoke conditions that may inhibit firefighter egress.
5. An interior attack is to be discontinued and an exterior attack instituted.
6. Loss of water that may endanger firefighters.
7. Immediate need for resources such as:
  - a. Ground ladders for trapped occupants in imminent danger.
  - b. Immediate alternate means of egress due to fire conditions.
8. Fire extension into an exposure to a degree that any delay may considerably enlarge the fire problem.
9. Structural collapse has occurred during defensive operations.
10. Any other dangerous condition not listed above.

## CALLING AN URGENT:

1. A member becoming aware of a URGENT situation is to immediately contact the Incident Commander as follows: “URGENT-URGENT-URGENT, Pine Street Command from Engine 7401, URGENT.”
2. The Incident Commander will respond in the following format: Engine 7401 from Pine Street Command, proceed with your “URGENT.”
3. The member with the emergency message will respond in the following format: “URGENT- (state injury or problem).” The member should provide the following information using the acronym LUNAR as appropriate.

L – Location (current or last known) and what happened

U – Unit #

N – Name (member ID)

A – Assignment (what you were assigned to do) and Air Supply remaining

R – Resources needed

## ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Any “MAYDAY” or “URGENT” must be answered promptly by the Incident Commander.
2. Should the Incident Commander not respond to the MAYDAY” or “URGENT” within ten (10) seconds, any firefighter hearing the “MAYDAY” or “URGENT” shall answer and forward the message appropriately.
3. The term “COLLAPSE” shall only be used to indicate STRUCTURAL FAILURE.
4. In the event an Emergency Evacuation is Ordered, ALL PERSONNEL are required to evacuate immediately. This includes the RIT members as well as those personnel providing assistance to the rescue operations. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**