



**City of Winchester
Fire & Rescue Department
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**



Section: Fire Suppression Operations	SOP: 8.5
Subject: Mayday and Rapid Intervention Team	Executed: November 17, 1998 Revised: December 25, 2010 October 22, 2012
Approved:  Scott Cullers, Fire Chief	

PURPOSE

To establish Command and Rapid Intervention Team procedures and guidelines that is implemented when a firefighter becomes trapped or missing while operating within a hazardous environment on the scene of an emergency incident.

SCOPE

The procedure is designed to apply to all Fire and Rescue Department operations where personnel are required to enter hazardous environments that present an immediate danger to life and health (IDLH). Although developed primarily for structural fire incidents, it is also applicable to hazardous materials, confined space entry, and structural collapse incidents. There is a very narrow window of time for a firefighter to survive after their SCBA air supply has expired or when trapped in an IDLH. Individual firefighters must not delay reporting to Command if they become lost, trapped, or otherwise in need of assistance. Officers must not delay reports of lost firefighters or the inability to complete accountability reports. Command officers must take immediate action if a firefighter is missing in a building until they can be accounted for. A Command and RIT structure must be designed to permit rapid deployment in a manner that will not endanger rescue personnel beyond a level of acceptability while accomplishing the rescue mission. Professional deployment of this procedure coupled with proper training and the implementation of strategic measures will result in a favorable out come.

DEFINITIONS

Mayday – The term used only to report firefighter(s) who are missing, trapped, or in a life threatening situation. Examples – “MAYDAY” Portable Truck 2 to command, I have a firefighter who fell through the floor; OR “MAYDAY” Portable Engine 1 to command I am separated from my crew and lost on the second floor.

Mayday Event – Term used to identify and communicate that a MAYDAY is in progress/taking place on the incident scene. This is the term used to announce a MAYDAY to other emergency units and ECC. Example – Cameron Street Command to headquarters we have a MAYDAY EVENT on this incident scene.

Emergency Traffic – Term used to communicate any urgent or important message other than a missing or trapped firefighter during a MAYDAY EVENT. Example: “EMERGENCY TRAFFIC Engine 4 to Command there has been a collapse of about half the exterior wall on side **Charlie**, all personnel are okay”.

RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM(S) PROCEDURES

When: A RIT should be in place any time firefighters are in a dangerous environment, but **shall** be in place anytime more than one team is operating or assigned an IDLH atmosphere.

RIT Purpose: Be prepared to rescue a missing or trapped firefighter.

- Search and locate missing/trapped firefighter(s).
- Remove the firefighter(s) to a safe location.
- Provide an air supply to the trapped firefighter(s).
- Provide protection to the trapped firefighter(s).
- Provide feedback to command or rescue sector on resource requirements needed to protect and rescue trapped firefighter(s).

RIT Needs: Any RIT shall have at least two firefighters and may have more depending on the size and scope of the incident. RIT shall implement or be prepared to implement the following items:

- Radio identification (Utilizing 100 series numbering beginning with RIT #200, then RIT #300 and so on).
- Don full protective gear and SCBA.
- Identify location (Side 1/front of building, if possible).
- Confer with Command (Location, resource needs, plan & accountability).
- Monitor all radio traffic pertaining to the incident.
- Size-up/assess the building, and conduct continual reassessments.
- Access points, doors, windows, ladders, and aerial needs
- Assess construction features and stability
- Assess emergency conditions and forecast potential firefighter rescue problems.
- Confirm location of all units/crews working in the hazardous area.
- Establish a tool staging area: (Tool Box)
- Forcible Entry tools, hand and power
- **RIT Pak:** Air cylinders, air supply
- Ropes
- Needs for breaching walls
- Lifting equipment, etc.
- Hand lights and portable lighting
- Specialized equipment (crane, backhoe, etc.)

- Plan where to acquire or have a hose-line, if needed (may want charged or dry).
- Retrieve and review building preplan or plans (if available).

RIT “MAYDAY” RESCUE ACTION A “MAYDAY EVENT”

- Plan all actions with Command.
- Start search only when cleared with Command.
- Search last known location.
- Listen for potential radio traffic from missing/downed firefighter.
- Listen for PASS unit operation.
- Monitor information from other units.
- Thermal imaging (when/if available).
- Conduct physical search.
- Confirm radio channel assignment.
- Advance with a search line and/or hose line, so others can locate you and you can find the way out.
- Assess the situation and advise Command of needs.
- Coordinate rescue operations with firefighting operations and other emergency scene operations
- Request resources that may be needed to protect a trapped or downed firefighter, until rescue operations can begin.

When missing or trapped firefighter(s) is located, radio Command, update condition, and develop a plan for removal. If removal is going to be immediate, radio Command and advise. Give exit location and if ALS is needed.

COMMAND PROCEDURES

- Continue to assess the risk to firefighters.
- Build a RIT or RITs to match the size and scope of the incident.
- Maintain a resource level to match the size and scope of the incident.
- Maintain an awareness of the location of firefighters on the emergency scene through assignments and the accountability system.
- Assign an officer to the RIT.
- Advise RIT of crew(s) working in hazard area and location.
- Assign a Safety Officer and **Division/Group** Officers.

COMMAND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR “MAYDAY” RESCUE OPERATION

- Identify/confirm MAYDAY situations.
- Notify ECC to announce that a MAYDAY EVENT has occurred.
- Initiate a PAR check to confirm accountability of all personnel to determine missing firefighter(s).
- Have ECC and Command monitor radio channels.
- Restructure the incident action plan and incident priorities to a firefighter search and rescue operation. Development of a rescue action plan is critical.

- Immediately request additional resources to meet the needs of the event.
 - Units and Staffing
 - Command Officers
 - Specialized Resources
- Establish communications with the RIT.
- Assign an Officer to the RESCUE group.
- PAR checks during the RESCUE operation will be at the discretion of the incident commander. The incident commander will be the one to initiate PAR checks. PAR checks should not interfere with the MAYDAY RESCUE.
- Assign the RIT to search and rescue operations in the known area or last known area where firefighter(s) need assistance.
- Assign relief crews to the RIT group to build personnel levels for additional RIT members and back up.
- Maintain resources in the fire attack positions to control the incident. Reinforce with extra units and personnel as needed.
- Request information updates from RIT officer(s) or Rescue group officer(s).
- Expand the command system to handle the event.
- Maintain an ALS unit in place for ready treatment of the trapped/missing firefighter(s).
- Anticipate extrication needs and assign task.
- Open/unlock all doors and windows, if appropriate.
- Have ECC notify the department officers by setting off the "Officer page".
- Withdraw and control unassigned resources from the search and rescue area.
- Assign a Public Information Officer, department or city depending on event.
- Consider the need for a Welfare Officer or C.I.S.M. Team and obtain as needed.

All areas of every situation can not be covered in a procedure, but maintaining a disciplined and controlled emergency scene will help.

Do not hesitate to call for additional resources that are needed or may be needed.

Proper risk assessment and training are a must for controlling and having a favorable outcome of an incident.