Wildland “MAYDAY” Policy

Purpose

A. To standardize the process used for declaring a “MAYDAY” on a wildland incident and to coincide with our current “MAYDAY” policy for structure fires.

B. The Mayday procedure is intended for life threatening shelter deployment / burn over and is not intended to take the place of the Incident Within an Incident (IWI) process as outlined in the IAP for firefighter injuries.

Two common terminologies are identified by FIRESCOPE for use in emergency situations

A. Emergency Traffic: "Emergency traffic" shall be used as a designator to clear the radio traffic for an emergency affecting the incident and can be declared by any member who becomes aware of an emergency affecting the incident. When a member declares “emergency traffic” that person shall use clear text to identify the type of emergency, change in conditions, or tactical operations. Examples of “emergency traffic” could be: “evacuate the building,” “wind shift from North to South,” “change from offensive to defensive operations,” “electrical wires down,” or “shots fired.”

B. MAYDAY: “Mayday” shall be used as the designator to identify when a member is in a life-threatening situation and in need of immediate assistance and can be declared by any member who becomes aware of a member who is in a life-threatening situation and in need of immediate assistance. "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday" shall be broadcast followed by clear text to identify the type of emergency “RESPONDER DOWN,” “RESPONDER MISSING,” or “DEPLOYING SHELTERS,” to all incident personnel.

Once a “Mayday” has been declared and broadcast on the radio, the Incident Commander must take action to determine the members’ location, situation, and the resources needed to facilitate assistance

C. LUNAR-P: The acronym used to describe the nature of a “MAYDAY” activation.
   - L- Location
   - U- Unit
   - N- Name
   - A- Assignment
• R- Resources Needed
• P-PAR (personal accountability report)

Procedure

MAYDAY COMMUNICATIONS:

1. In the event that a "MAYDAY" occurs on a wildland incident the following communication should occur on the tactical channel. "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY" deploying shelters. The IC clears the tactical channel and advises to go ahead with the "MAYDAY". The person calling the "MAYDAY" should then give the acronym LUNAR-P.

Examples:

A. "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY" deploying shelters on Division Charlie with E663, Captain Jones, on a 400’ hoselay, send air tankers and support to my location, PAR 3.

References

• ICS 190 Firescope- “Fire Incident Safety and Accountability Guidelines”
• NFPD Policy 325- Rapid Intervention / Two-In Two-Out
• NFPA 1500 Standard for Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program