

# 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