

Augusta County Emergency Services Officers Association

*Augusta County Government Center
P.O. Box 590 – 18 Government Center Lane
Verona, Virginia 24482*



Fire-EMS Standard Operating Guideline

Section:	Operations
Title:	Regional MayDay Policy
Date:	January 27, 2015

Purpose:

To define and provide an outline for initiating a MAYDAY and conducting MAYDAY operations

Policy:

A call for MAYDAY shall be used by personnel operating at the scene of an emergency who are in immediate need of assistance or who see a fellow firefighter who is in immediate need of assistance. Examples of such assistance are:

- Lost, trapped, disoriented, or injured
- Fallen through roof or floor
- Any situation that you are stuck and cannot self-extricate in 60 seconds
- Any situation in which you cannot find primary or secondary exit doors or windows in 60 seconds

The primary means of declaring a MAYDAY shall either be by communicating such across the primary operational radio frequency or talkgroup on which you are operating, and announcing "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY" ; or by activating the Emergency Identification button (EID) on your radio, depending upon the local jurisdiction protocol.

The person who issued the MAYDAY call will notify Command of the type of emergency, and what assistance is needed. The minimum information that needs to be communicated to Command or over the EID in the event of a MAYDAY shall consist of the following: firefighter's identification (walkie designation or name), location, air supply, actions being completed and resources needed. The individual's PASS device should also be activated.

A MAYDAY call should be acknowledged only by Command, unless it is obvious that Command has missed the MAYDAY call. When the MAYDAY call is issued, all other radio traffic on that frequency will cease.

Command shall keep the MAYDAY frequency open for MAYDAY operations and shall direct all other fire ground operations to other frequencies.

Command shall acknowledge the MAYDAY and determine what resources are available to answer the MAYDAY call. This should include deploying the RIC and directing additional resources accordingly.

If the location and identity of the firefighter needing assistance is unknown, Command shall immediately conduct a Personal Accountability Report on the fire ground frequency not assigned to the MAYDAY.

All personnel operating at the scene of the emergency, other than those assigned to the MAYDAY operation, shall continue with their given assignments unless directed otherwise by Command.