

The Woodlands Fire Department Operational Guidelines

F-07 - MAYDAY

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To assure that all personnel operating at the scene of an emergency are made aware of a MAYDAY call by trapped or lost firefighters, and the ensuing actions that will be set forth in order to locate and rescue those personnel.

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2.0 DECLARING A MAYDAY

- 2.1 When an emergency responder identifies that he/she or a member of his/her team, is lost, trapped, disoriented, or injured and in need of assistance, he/she will (if possible) transmit a verbal message on the fire ground operation channel to **Command** and state: “**MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY**”

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- A. Upon receipt of the MAYDAY call, the IC will confirm receipt of the MAYDAY by stating “Unit calling MAYDAY, go ahead with your traffic.”
The individual reporting will provide the following information:

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C: Conditions

A: Actions

N: Needs

Example: FF: “MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY”
Command: “Unit calling MAYDAY, go ahead with your traffic”
FF: “This is E102 FF (or John Doe, etc.), I have fallen through the floor and am injured. I am on the first floor and need help.”

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U: Unit Number¶
N: Name¶
A: Assignment (per Incident Management System)¶
R: Resources needed

- B. The PASS device will be activated.
- C. Lost or trapped firefighters will remain together.
- D. If possible, lost or trapped firefighters will attempt to seek an area of refuge.

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3.0 IC RESPONSE TO A “MAYDAY”

- 3.1 Upon receipt of a MAYDAY, the IC will advise all personnel that all radio traffic must cease.
- 3.2 Only radio traffic pertinent to the MAYDAY will be permitted on the operations channel.

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- 3.3 [Deploy RIT\(s\) as needed.](#)
- 3.4 [Provide a brief progress report to Fire Com and immediately assign all operations not pertaining to the MAYDAY to a new radio channel thus clearing the current channel for rescue operations. Include a specific notation if a Rapid Intervention Team \(RIT\) has been deployed.](#)
- 3.5 [Request additional resources](#) to assist with search, rescue, and fire control activities.
- 3.6 Immediately conduct a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) on the newly assigned radio channel.
- 3.7 If a firefighter comes up on an unassigned radio channel, the IC will be advised and Fire Com will remain with the firefighter on that channel.
- 3.8 The IC should request that Fire Com dedicate a dispatcher to monitor the MAYDAY event on the MAYDAY channel if possible.
- 3.9 The IC will notify Fire Com to announce the conclusion of the MAYDAY event.
- 3.10 [Fire Ground operations must continue during the MAYDAY to protect those in danger and the rescuers.](#)

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Consider establishing a Rescue Group to coordinate all RIT and search & rescue activities.

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<#>Determine if firefighter is trapped or lost, and what resources might be needed.¶

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<#>Commit the RIT to the most appropriate location to initiate a rescue.¶

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<#>If staffing is available, assign an ISO to the rescue operation or Rescue Group (if established).¶

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