

ROGUE VALLEY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Document:	Calling A Mayday
Section & #:	Model Operational Guidelines #3.10
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Purpose

To provide a model guideline for RVFCA agencies for how to properly call for assistance when lost, trapped or disoriented on an incident scene.

Safety

Being well trained, wearing proper PPE and remaining situational aware are the best ways to stay safe on an incident. It is important that crews remain together and not freelance while on incidents. Should the unthinkable occur; it is important to remain calm and take decisive action by initiating a Mayday and providing for self-rescue.

Procedure

To Initiate a Mayday:

1. Announce “**Mayday, Mayday, Mayday**” over the operational frequency.
2. Command responds to a MAYDAY.
 - a. “**Emergency Traffic, Clear the Air, We have a MAYDAY**”.
 - b. “**Firefighter with the Mayday go ahead**”.
3. The Firefighter Provides the following information in a **UCAN** report:
 - a. **U**nit – Includes last name/company and last known location.
 - b. **C**ondition – Problem that created the Mayday.
 - c. **A**ctions – What is being done to survive?
 - d. **N**eeds - What are the immediate needs?
4. If Command does not respond to a verbalized Mayday – the firefighter should consider switching frequencies to re-broadcast the Mayday, or use the Firefighter Down Button with audible alerting, to draw attention to the Mayday.
 - a. The Firefighter Down button is an optional feature, secondary to verbally declaring a Mayday. For each agency that chooses to utilize the button, programming the alert frequency may be done in any manner that provides

for a best-practice solution, taking into consideration local need, mutual/auto aid interoperability, and dispatch center technology.

- b. In cases where agencies with different radio programming features operate on the same incident, or where geographical barriers eliminate the ability to alert dispatch centers, the IC must ensure all Mayday frequencies in-use (i.e.: RV TAC 1) are monitored on scene by a minimum of the ISO or RIT Leader. Agencies not utilizing RV TAC 1 while operating on mutual/auto aid incidents must notify IC or otherwise refrain from relying on the Firefighter Down Button.
- c. The programming of a 10 second hands-free “open mic” period after the audible alert is also optional.

Firefighter missing:

1. Command announces:
 - a. **“Emergency Traffic, Clear the Air, We have a MAYDAY”.**
 - b. **“Who, what unit, and last known location of missing Firefighter”.**
2. The Firefighter missing may provide a status report indicating they are in a safe position; otherwise, Command initiates the Mayday Management Procedure SOG #3.11.

Trigger points when to call a Mayday:

1. Fall through the roof or floor.
2. Caught in a structural flashover or wildland burn-over.
3. Tangled, pinned or stuck - **and** - unable to self-extricate in 30 seconds.
4. Zero visibility, no contact with hose or a lifeline and don't know where the exit is.
5. Primary exit/escape route is blocked and are not at a secondary exit in 30 seconds.
6. Emergency air alarm is sounding and not out of the building in 30 seconds.
7. Attempting to leave building but cannot find the exit in 30 seconds.
8. Separated from crew and unable to find the exit or a crew in 30 seconds.

9. Equipment failure that places firefighter in an untenable situation.
10. Unable to communicate with Firefighter or crew, or witness to a significant event -
Call a mayday for the FF or crew.

Stay calm. Use your training. Communicate. NEVER GIVE UP!