

FREWSBURG FIRE DISTRICT OPERATIONAL POLICY	Section 7	EMERGENCY OPERATIONS	
	SUBJECT	MAYDAY/ LOST FIREFIGHTER	
	Policy 7-04	PAGE 1 OF 4	DATE: 01-01-2023

I. SCOPE

This policy applies to all Frewsburg Fire District members operating on emergency scenes. It is the responsibility of all officers to ensure that this policy is adhered to.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to identify the actions that should be taken in the event a firefighter is endangered beyond normal firefighting operations.

III. PROCEDURE

1. The term Mayday will be used when personnel are in immediate life-threatening situations. They will use the term "Emergency Traffic" to report other emergencies.
2. A firefighter reporting Mayday will have priority over all other radio traffic. All firefighters operating on the scene will use radios for immediate critical information only.
3. In the event of a Mayday emergency, the following action should be taken by the firefighter(s) that is endangered:
 - A. Rectify any immediate life-threatening situations.
 - B. Notify Command using "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday".
 - C. The firefighter reporting Mayday will contact the Incident Commander via portable radio.
 - i. The acronyms LUNAR or UCAN provides the critical information that should be reported:
 1. (Location, Unit, Name, Actions, Needs, Assignment, Resources or Unit, Conditions, Actions, Needs)
 - D. Activate the P.A.S.S. Device
 - E. Take action to self-evacuate and/or merge with RIT.
 - F. Take action to conserve air supply.
2. During Mayday Operations, firefighters will continue with assignments as given by Command. They will not redirect their activities without the knowledge and consent of the Incident Commander.

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3. During Mayday Operations, Command and on-scene firefighters will follow the provisions for “Lost or Trapped Firefighters.”
4. The Incident Commander that was in charge of the incident shall conduct a critique of the rescue operation or near-miss situation.

IV. LOST OR INJURED FIREFIGHTER(S)

The following guidelines pertain to firefighters that are lost or are injured in a hazardous environment and are unable to self-rescue.

1. Firefighters must recognize that being lost or disoriented is an emergency and must take immediate actions to extricate themselves from the danger before becoming incapacitated:
2. Inform Command of the emergency using “Mayday, Mayday, Mayday and transmit your PASS device via radio.
3. Adjust the incident management plan to a high priority rescue: implementing appropriate sectors, establishing protection zones, implementing medical/triage, providing additional ventilation, etc.
4. Set high-intensity lighting at points of egress.
5. Ensure fire dispatch is monitoring all radio frequencies for emergency transmissions.
6. Withdraw uninvolved crews (those not victims or assigned as rescuers) from the affected area.
7. Ensure all personnel continue to operate within the Incident Action Plan and not attempt rescue operations without direction.
8. When the rescue operations are complete, Command will declare the emergency situation over and a return to normal operations.
9. A firefighter rescue operation is a stressful event, whether it is successful or not. CISM is recommended.

V. RESCUE OPERATIONS

Command should consider establishing a Rescue Sector to coordinate rescue activities. Such activities include:

1. Develop and assign search areas/grids based on information regarding the location and situation of missing/lost firefighter.

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2. Deployment of RIT to best access point.
3. Establish protection zones around endangered firefighter(s).
4. Request resources required to perform a rescue.
5. Ensure back up crews are in place.
6. Firefighters will continue with assignments as given by Command.
7. They are **not** to redirect their activities without the knowledge and consent of the Incident Commander.
8. The Rescue Sector supervisor should consider using crew members that were with the missing or trapped firefighter(s) as part of the Rescue team or as an intelligence resource to help identify the possible location of the lost/trapped firefighter.

The RIT should consider the following when searching for missing/lost firefighters:

1. Developing information about a firefighter's possible location: speak with crew members, follow hose line, and identify landmarks.
2. Implementing a search and Rescue plan.
3. Identify immediate hazards that could endanger RIT members.
4. Assign one member of the RIT crew to listen for and locate sounds generated by firefighters, SCBA, P.A.S.S, or portable radio.
5. Use portable radio feedback to locate firefighter(s).
6. Identify fans, lights, or other equipment that may have been used by missing firefighters.

The RIT should consider the following when the missing firefighter(s) have been located:

1. The RIT team/s should be equipped with RIT Bags and a TIC.
2. Assessment of immediate hazards in the area.
3. Victim status: level of consciousness, the ability to assist with rescue, breathing, air supply, injuries, entrapment, etc.

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4. Identify and remove life-threatening conditions. If the victim is not breathing, immediate extrication from the hazardous area is imperative; replacing the air supply will not increase chances of survival.
5. Request resource requirements: extrication equipment, manpower, extra air cylinders, area protection, ventilation, lighting, etc.
6. Identify egress and escape routes.

VI. BUILDING COLLAPSE

The following guidelines pertain to building collapse that involves firefighters working in, on, or near a structure that has collapsed:

1. Command will immediately initiate an evacuation of the collapse area, rescuing firefighters, as necessary.
2. Command will initiate a PAR for all firefighters operating in the sector or area.
3. If it is determined that firefighters are missing, Command will follow the procedures for Lost or Injured Firefighter(s) and Rescue Operations.
4. Command will activate necessary special rescue teams.
5. Rescue crews must be cautious not to cause an additional collapse while searching or removing trapped firefighters from the collapse area.