

Standard Operating Guideline:

Mayday

Purpose: The purpose for this guideline is to establish a way for lost, trapped or down fire fighters to report their status as being in trouble and needing immediate rescue. This should also initiate the incident commander to place a Rapid Intervention Team into action to remove the fire fighter(s) from the hazardous environment. MAYDAY is only to be used in emergency situations.

A Mayday should be declared when any of the following situations occur: A firefighter becomes lost or disoriented, becomes entangled, is in danger of depleting their SCBA air supply in an Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmosphere, becomes trapped, pinned, or prevented from leaving the IDLH environment, structural collapse has occurred trapping firefighters (interior or exterior), a fire fighter is operating inside a burning building and is injured or incapacitated, when a firefighter working in a hazard zone cannot be accounted for, or any other event that places a firefighter in immediate danger.

Firefighter accountability is crucial in order to minimize the chances of a Mayday. PAR (personnel accountability report) should be kept at all times to ensure the whereabouts of all personnel operating on scene.

Basic Survival Responsibilities: It is the responsibility of all fire department members to operate in a safe manner to minimize the need for a "Mayday" incident to occur. Never put yourself in a situation where someone else will have to come and get you out. Always stay with your crew on the hose line or lifeline you entered the building with. Always search for alternate means of egress. All down and trapped fire fighters should make an effort to free themselves AFTER calling the mayday. The mayday can always be cancelled

Calling the Mayday: Call for help immediately. The message transmitted by radio should be Mayday 3 times -"MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY."

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When "MAYDAY" has been transmitted and acknowledged the radio channel where the mayday was transmitted should be cleared and made a priority channel for the down fire fighter and RIT operations. All other personnel should change channels and continue to mitigate the incident provided there is sufficient manpower.

The down fire fighter should provide a status report using the acronym LUNAR.

L - Location (as accurately as possible)

U - Unit Number

N - Name

A - Air (Amount of air left in SCBA)

R - Resources needed for extrication and removal

Provide status updates as necessary on conditions (structural, fire, patient, and any other major change in conditions.)

Activate PASS device as soon as you realize you are in trouble. Remember to silence pass device to talk on the radio.

Always stay calm to conserve air, place yourself in a horizontal position in a safe refuge if possible and use tools and flashlights to your advantage by making noise and providing light around your location.

Standard Operating Guideline:

Emergency Evacuation

Purpose: To establish a guideline for when an incident may deteriorate to the point where it is unsafe for aggressive/offensive operations to continue and emergency evacuation is needed. This will also serve as a guide to standardize radio traffic for emergency evacuations and also to establish a guide to follow for the emergency evacuation signal amongst all Watauga County Fire Departments.

Emergency evacuation of a structure/scene shall mean an evacuation that is initiated by the Incident Commander or the Safety Officer, because conditions are believed to pose an immediate and direct threat to the safety of personnel operating in or around the structure/scene. An Emergency evacuation is to be ordered only when personnel are in imminent danger. An Emergency evacuation should not be confused with an order to shift from an offensive to a defensive mode operation.

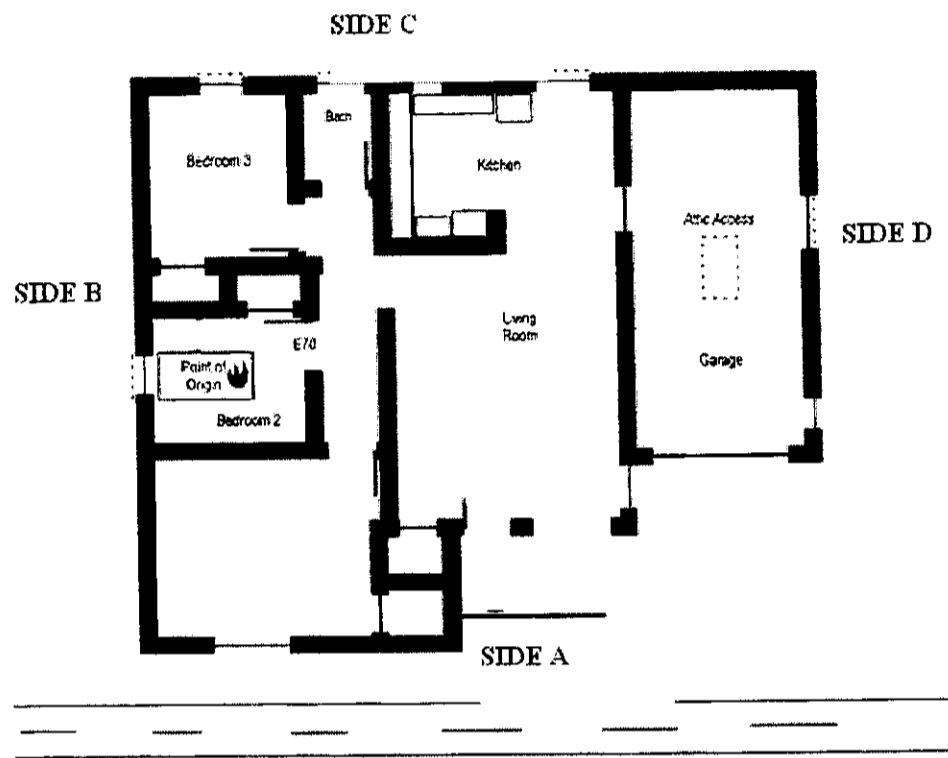
The emergency evacuation should begin with incident command communicating to all personnel via radio to evacuate the hazard area immediately. I.E. "All personnel evacuate the (structure, scene, hazard area) immediately". This should be repeated at least 3 times. Following this air horns should be sounded in long blasts for a minimum of 30 seconds with a short break (5 to 10 seconds) following each. This should be repeated for a minimum of 2 minutes or until all personnel are evacuated and accounted for. Each firefighter should check in with command to be accounted for as they evacuate.

Standard Operating Guideline:

Structure Orientation

Purpose: The purpose of this guideline is to establish a means of orienting the sides of a structure Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta. This is to allow each department in the county to understand and function under the same terminology.

Side A or Alpha should be denoted as the street side of the structure and the order should continue clockwise around the building where B (Bravo) is the left side C (Charlie) is the rear and D (Delta) should be the right side. This can be deviated from when the street address side of a structure is unclear. There must be a clear and obvious landmark to establish the alpha side and this should be communicated to all responding personnel. Bravo Charlie and Delta should continue around the structure in a clockwise manor after Alpha is established.



Using this system will allow us as a county to be standardized as well as NIMS compliant.