



Emergency Communications Procedures

Scope: Sacramento Regional Fire Departments

Policy Contact

Sacramento Regional Operations Group

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01. Guideline

Establish basic communication procedures which fall outside of normal fire ground operations.

02. Definitions

2.1 Emergency radio traffic

Radio transmission used when important information and/or an immediate safety issue regarding the incident needs to be communicated.

2.2 Evacuation

Radio transmission used to evacuate firefighters from the IDLH area.

2.3 Mayday

A designated radio broadcast to inform all personnel operating on an incident of a firefighter in distress.

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2.4 PAR

Mnemonic used on an emergency incident to update the IC on crew accountability - Personnel Accountability Report.

2.5 CAN report

Mnemonic used on an emergency incident to update the IC on emergency incident operations:

- C- Conditions
- A- Actions
- N- Needs

2.6 NUCAN

Mnemonic that can be used as a guide on an emergency incident when calling a mayday and/or receiving a mayday:

- N- Name
- U- Unit/location
- C- Conditions
- A- Actions
- N- Needs

03. Procedure

3.1 Emergency radio traffic

Criteria for reporting an “Emergency Traffic”:

- Missing firefighter(s)
- Change in strategy
- Locating a civilian
- Potential building collapse
- Locating an area of fire that is unknown to other companies
- Extraordinary hazard
- Additional situations which create an immediate danger to firefighters

3.1.1

Company responsibilities:

- Transmit, using resource identifier with the term “Emergency Traffic”
- If not acknowledged after a couple of seconds, make a second transmission
- After acknowledgment has been received, transmit your information

3.1.2

Command responsibilities:

- Acknowledge the Emergency Traffic
- Repeat message
- Announce any operational changes

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3.1.3

Sample radio traffic:

- Unit- “Command, Engine 73, with Emergency Traffic”
- Command- “all companies hold your radio traffic, unit with emergency traffic go ahead with your traffic”
- Unit- “there has been a partial building collapse on the Charlie/Delta corner, I recommend we evacuate the building and move to a defensive strategy”
- Command- “command copies a partial building collapse on the Charlie/Delta corner”

3.1.4

Considerations:

- All personnel operating on the fire ground should hold all non-essential radio traffic
- At the conclusion of the emergency traffic, the IC should transmit an “all clear, resume normal radio traffic”

3.2 Evacuation procedures

Radio transmission should be announced by transmitting an “Emergency Traffic” and state “all companies evacuate the building”

3.2.1

Evacuation signal:

- The evacuation signal will consist of repeated short blast of the air-horn for a period of no longer than ten seconds, followed by ten seconds of silence. This should be completed three times

3.2.2

Company responsibilities:

- All personnel operating on the fire ground should initiate evacuation procedures if an immediate danger to the safety of personnel exist
- After initiating the evacuating procedure, give the IC a CAN report
- Account for your crew and prepare for a PAR
- A PAR should include your company identifier, number of personnel and any other pertinent company information

3.2.3

Command responsibilities:

- Announce any operational changes
- Confirm a PAR for the entire incident

3.3 Mayday

Criteria for calling a “Mayday”:

- Lost, disorientated, or unaccounted for crew member
- SCBA malfunction or large loss of air

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- Trapped or entangled firefighter
- Seriously injured or incapacitated firefighter
- Any life threatening condition that cannot be resolved in 30 seconds

3.3.1

Firefighter's responsibilities:

- Attempt to activate the emergency button on the portable radio
- Transmit, "mayday, mayday, mayday"
- If not acknowledged after a couple of seconds, make a second transmission
- After acknowledgment has been made by the IC, transmit a NUCAN

3.3.2

Command responsibilities:

- Acknowledge the mayday
- Gather NUCAN information
- Initiate rescue operations
- Announce any operational changes that may include moving fire ground operations to a separate tactical channel
- Advise fire dispatch of the mayday and request additional resources

3.3.3

Sample radio traffic:

- Firefighter- "mayday, mayday, mayday"
- Command- "command copies the mayday, go ahead with your traffic"
- Firefighter- "this is firefighter Jones from Engine 73. I was completing a right hand search on the second floor and have become disoriented and low on air, send RIC for help"
- Command- "command copies, firefighter Jones from Engine 73 is disoriented on the second floor and low on air. Activate your PASS device, stay calm, slow your breathing down and try to locate an exit"

3.3.4


Considerations:

- All personnel operating on the fire ground should hold all non-essential radio traffic
- At the conclusion of the mayday, the IC should transmit an "all clear, resume normal radio traffic"
- Consider activating RIC see (RIC S.R.O.G.)

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Signature Page

The undersigned Fire Chiefs approve the contents of this document


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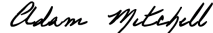
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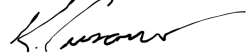
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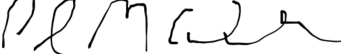
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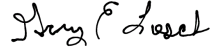
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