



## KOOTENAI COUNTY FIRE MODEL PROCEDURE

### SECTION 4 – “MAYDAY”

Adopted 8/16/12

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#### 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This model procedure is endorsed by the Kootenai County Fire Chiefs Association as a template for planning and training for all fire departments and districts in Kootenai County.
- 1.2 The purpose of this model procedure is providing a standard way of alerting the Incident Commander (IC)

#### 2.0 REFERENCES

- 2.1 NFOA 1500
- 2.2 Kootenai County Fire Chief RIT and Abandonment/Withdrawal

#### 3.0 DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 Mayday – A standard three-word distress call to indicate that a firefighter or company is in immediate danger and requires immediate assistance (i.e. “Mayday, Mayday, Mayday; Command from Engine 11”).
- 3.2 Roll Call – A system initiated and used by the IC, using the radio and passport accountability system to verify the status of all personnel at the emergency scene (sometimes referred to as PAR).

#### 4.0 MODEL PROCEDURE

- 4.1 Fire Departments within Kootenai County shall use the Mayday procedure as adopted by the Kootenai County Fire Chiefs Association.
- 4.2 Procedures for notification of missing or trapped firefighters are as follows:
  - 4.2.1 When a firefighter(s) or team is presumed missing, trapped or in serious trouble, a “MAYDAY” radio transmission shall be given in the following manner on the assigned operational talk group:

Example:

“MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY, \_\_\_\_\_ Command from

Engine 14”

- 4.3 The MAYDAY transmission may be given by the firefighter(s) themselves or by anyone that suspects there are missing or trapped firefighter(s).
- 4.4 Once acknowledged by Command, the MAYDAY shall be followed by a report to include (if known) crew or personnel identification, location, conditions, air, and needs. Number of firefighters missing or trapped, extent of help needed (trapped, lost, missing, etc.) and the quickest/recommended ingress to their location.
- 4.5 In cases where the identity of the member needing rescue is in doubt, identifying themselves or the missing member by name is appropriate.

Examples:

“MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY, Seltice Command from Firefighter Jones.”

“Seltice Command”

“This is Firefighter Jones. I am separated from my Company, Engine 521 disoriented, and unable to find my way out. I have 800 pounds of air remaining. “Firefighter Jones requesting immediate assistance.”

“Seltice Command confirming that Firefighter Jones has MAYDAY traffic, is separated from E-521 crew, lost and is low on air and in need of assistance.”

- 4.6 All radio transmissions are to be acknowledged. If any member hears a non-acknowledged emergency transmission they will report it immediately to Command.
- 4.7 Once the Incident Commander has initiated an appropriate rescue plan, he/she shall cause a roll call to be conducted from the status of presumed missing or trapped firefighter(s).
- 4.8 The activation of an Emergency Button on the portable radio will be treated as a MAYDAY transmission until confirmed otherwise.

- 4.9 During times of distress when voice communication is not possible or effective the EMER button is the alternative procedure for a “Mayday” transmission to the Incident Commander.

*Note: If the EMER button is activated it will immediately take the user to the EMER talkgroup and Central Dispatch handling the incident the radio is assigned to will receive an audible alert. Central Dispatch is required to immediately attempt to establish radio contact with the identified user of that portable. Central Dispatch will also immediately notify the Incident Commander (or the on-duty chief officer if no incident is in progress) of the EMER alert.*

## **5.0 RESPONSIBILITY**

- 5.1 Firefighters who find themselves lost or trapped must immediately use “Mayday” to announce their situation while they continue to attempt to find their way out. Firefighters should not delay notification of distress. Notifications should occur as soon as the firefighter THINKS he or she is in trouble. The longer you wait to tell somebody you are in trouble the more you jeopardize yourself and the rescuers lives.
- 5.2 If a team member is in trouble, the other member(s) of the team shall take appropriate steps to help, which may include but is not limited to providing direct assistance, calling for help, and going to get help.