

**FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION DELAWARE COUNTY, OHIO  
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE**

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	<b>RESCINDS</b>
FIREGROUND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS	July 21, 2010	March 19, 2008
<b>REFERENCE NUMBER</b>		<b>PAGES</b>
<b>DCFC-003</b>		<b>3</b>

**SCOPE:**

To establish guidelines to provide a consistent policy for emergency communications and radio transmissions on the fireground and provide the highest level of safety for firefighting personnel possible.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Emergency Message:** Radio transmissions that require the highest priority and convey a message(s) with life safety or imminent conditions that need to be reported to personnel functioning in an emergency situation/incident.

**Mayday:** A message declaration that is reserved for firefighting personnel in imminent danger.

**GUIDELINE:**

**Section 1, Emergency Message**

The fireground provides many situations that may cause harm to personnel working at the incident. Many of these hazards can be minimized or eliminated by personnel monitoring the situation.

The Emergency message allows personnel who notice a warning sign of a pending hazardous situation to transmit that information to other personnel working in the area.

Examples of reasons to use the Emergency message include, but not limited to:

- Early sign of potential collapse
- Signs of possible backdraft or flashover
- Loss of water on attack lines
- Change from Offensive to Defensive Mode of operation

## **Section 2, Emergency Message Guideline for use:**

When personnel identify a hazard, they will call “Emergency” message on the fireground or tactical radio talkgroup on which they are operating. They will then give the situation status and an appropriate recommendation to protect personnel from the hazard.

The Incident Commander or Safety Officer will then contact the officer or firefighter making the Emergency message to confirm and gather further information.

All radio transmissions should be reduced as much as possible following an Emergency Message transmission.

Termination of the Emergency message radio traffic will be at the discretion of the Incident Commander.

## **Section 3, Mayday Message**

**Mayday** message is reserved for situations of current or imminent dangers to firefighters.

A Mayday message can include but not limited to:

- Firefighter trapped by collapse
- Firefighter becomes lost, disoriented or entangled
- Firefighter becomes injured inside the hazard zone and cannot accomplish a safe exit on their own accord

## **Section 4, Mayday Message Guideline for use:**

Firefighter will initiate the transmission by stating “MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY” (Mayday is be stated 3 (three) times), followed by their current situation, who they are, what company they are with and their current location. The firefighter issuing the MAYDAY shall activate his/her PASS device upon completion of the MAYDAY message.

Incident Command will acknowledge the “Mayday” message and ensure notification of the RIT Officer or Safety Officer of the radio unit’s identification and the talkgroup that the message originated.

The Incident Commander or Safety Officer will then deploy the RIT and any other resources as necessary to remove/assist the affected firefighter from their situation.

After a MAYDAY message is initiated, the fireground talkgroup will only be used by the Incident Commander, Safety Officer, RIT Group Officer and the firefighter that issued the MAYDAY message. All other fireground operations will be reassigned to a different talkgroup.

**Emergency Banner Use:** Firefighters will only activate the emergency banner on their radio in the event that they do not receive a reply from the Incident Commander or Safety Officer. Should it be necessary to utilize the emergency banner, all personnel must be aware the firefighter issuing the MAYDAY will now be on the “RESCUE” talkgroup, therefore, all rescue operations will need to be accomplished on “RESCUE” talkgroup. In this case, the firefighter issuing the emergency banner will not be required to change talkgroups.