Docusign Envelope ID: FA1FF9BF-EFB4-8F6B-801E-D9DDB511DB82

WESTERN PLACER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

SOG EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Emergency Procedures

PURPOSE: This document is intended to establish basic Emergency Procedures for emergency incident operations and is designed to be applied generally. These procedures may be modified as situations dictate. Nothing in this standard prevents the immediate deployment of personnel to affect a rescue during any stage of an incident.

GUIDELINE: **Command Function for Emergency Procedures**

During an incident where an emergency is called over the radio, it is the expectation that the incident will be carried out in a systematic and predictable fashion. This event needs to be conducted with rapid decision making and precision due to the severity of the possible outcome of such an event.

The terminology used to announce these emergencies shall be “Emergency Traffic” or “MAYDAY.” Mayday shall be used for any situation involving a firefighter emergency. Emergency Traffic shall be used for all other situations.

I. Emergency Traffic

a. The term “Emergency Traffic” is designated to announce any problem the incident commander needs to be aware of. These are safety situations and should be identified and understood globally.

- Criteria for reporting Emergency Traffic:
  - Change in Strategy
  - Locating a civilian
  - Potential building collapse
  - Locating an area of fire that is unknown to other companies
  - Extraordinary hazard
  - Situations which create an immediate danger to firefighters

b. Company responsibilities:
  - Transmit using resource identifier, then “Emergency Traffic"
  - If not acknowledged, make a second transmission
  - After acknowledgment has been received, transmit your information

The incident commander’s activities immediately following the emergency traffic should consist of the following:

Docusign Envelope ID: FA1FF9BF-EFB4-8F6B-801E-D9DDB511DB82

Emergency Procedures

c. Command should first:
- Acknowledge the Emergency Traffic
- Announce “All companies hold traffic for emergency traffic. Unit with emergency traffic, go ahead with your traffic”
- Repeat the safety hazard and conduct a safety “Check-back” with all assigned resources.
- Then announce any operational changes.

In the event that a life safety hazard is identified prior to Incident Command being established, the responsibility of a safety “Check-back” rests with the incident dispatch center.

Expectations on the fire ground are for personnel to hold non-essential radio traffic.

At the conclusion of the emergency traffic, the IC should transmit an “all clear, resume normal radio traffic.”

Emergency Traffic Example

Sample radio traffic:

TR1 “IC, TR1, emergency traffic”

IC “All companies hold non-emergent traffic. TR1, go ahead with your emergency traffic”

TR1 “There has been a partial collapse of the Charlie side wall”

IC “IC copies the collapse of the Charlie side wall”

IC (AFTER ES) “All companies evacuate the building, we are changing to a defensive mode, stand-by for a PAR”

Docusign Envelope ID: FA1FF9BF-EFB4-8F6B-801E-D9DDB511DB82

Emergency Procedures

II. MAYDAY

The term “MAYDAY” has been designated as the radio broadcast for alerting all personnel operating on an incident of a firefighter in distress. Criteria for initiating a “MAYDAY” may include but is not limited to personnel on an incident: trapped, disoriented or lost within the structure, believed to be missing within the structure, a firefighter medical emergency, or any life-threatening condition that cannot be resolved in 30 seconds.

Upon notification of a “Mayday” situation, it is imperative that the Incident Commander remains in control of the entire incident and not become overly committed to the rescue activities.

Project Mayday statistics revealed that 11% of rescues during Mayday events were performed by RIT/RIC. It is important for the Incident Commander to recognize that 89% of Mayday victims self-rescue, rescued by members of their crew, or are rescued by other working crews.

Incident commander’s actions immediately following a “MAYDAY” call should consist of the following:

- Acknowledge the “MAYDAY” using emergency traffic and gather **NUCAN**
- Initiate rescue operations
- Announce the emergency procedure to all personnel on the fire-ground. Any report of a “Mayday” will receive priority radio traffic and shall be pre-empted with “Emergency traffic” to clear the radio

a. Information that needs to be immediately obtained:
   Name
   Unit & Location
   Conditions
   Actions
   Needs

b. Once NUCAN information has been obtained and the announcement made on all operating incident channels, the Incident Commander should advise Fire Dispatch that a “MAYDAY” has been declared and request an additional alarm(s), tactical channel(s) as needed.

Any available Chief Officer should assist with the incident management. Assistance from another Chief Officer allows the IC to stay on the radio channel with the rescue operations (i.e. calling for additional resources and coordination of communications).

Docusign Envelope ID: FA1FF9BF-EFB4-8F6B-801E-D9DDB511DB82

Emergency Procedures

c. Announce what has happened on the fire ground and give specific directions of what is expected including radio discipline.

- Rapid movement of incident operations to another tactical channel may complicate operations.
- Most mayday events have occurred on the fire-ground within 7-10 minutes of the first arriving unit. Most incidents within the region will not have a complete command organization in place including RIC, RIC Group Supervisor, or Divisions.
- When the “MAYDAY” event takes place within the first 7-10 minutes and there is only one BC on scene in the role of command, command should run the rescue procedure.
- When the “MAYDAY” event takes place with at least two BCs on scene, it is at the discretion of command who should run the rescue operation.
- Considerations should include who has had contact with the downed firefighter and acknowledged the “MAYDAY.”

Expectations on the incident are for personnel to hold all radio traffic, unless they have specific information necessary for the rescue of the firefighter.

- Once the command officer has more information about the anticipated timeline of the rescue procedure, the decision can be made to either move all incident operations to another tactical channel or continue radio operations with ***strict*** radio discipline. The movement of incident operations to another tactical channel should only be done when indications of the rescue operation are going to be **extensive**.

- For extensive rescue operations, movement of incident operations should be voiced on the original TAC channel prior to moving any companies. A PAR shall be conducted on the new TAC channel.

d. Actions that **MUST** occur
- Acknowledge Emergency Traffic “MAYDAY” and collect NUCAN.
- Launch RIC (or fire personnel on scene to attempt rescue).
- Announce the status of the fire ground, launching RIC, location, etc.
- Update Dispatch that a “MAYDAY” has occurred on the fire ground.
- Request an additional alarm and additional TAC channels.
- Allow the RIC team the time to function and gather information to pass on to command.

e. Decision Points
- Keep operations on the same channel with radio discipline or move all operations to additional channel(s).
- If moving all incident ground companies off of the TAC channel to newly

Docusign Envelope ID: FA1FF9BF-EFB4-8F6B-801E-D9DDB511DB82

Emergency Procedures

assigned TAC channel, ensure that a PAR is conducted by all companies on scene on the newly assigned TAC channel. This should be done by the Chief Officer running the incident operations. A roll call PAR (3 companies at a time) may streamline this process.

- Call additional resources to support the rescue effort.
- Monitor progress of the rescue effort.
- Re-engage incident operations.

Command should consider maintaining a full additional alarm in staging, until the completion of the rescue operation due to the anticipated stress and workload associated with an operating MAYDAY.

As soon as a company has made contact with the down firefighter(s), they should complete a PAC assessment and communicate a CAN report to Command or RIC Group Supervisor.

PAC Assessment:

P Person – Is this the person you're looking for?
PASS device – Silence it
Portable Radio – Turn the down firefighter's portable radio off to reduce radio interference.

A Air – Check the down firefighter's air supply
Assessment – Checking for entrapment or entanglement
Actions – What you are doing with the down firefighter
- Air options
- Packaging type
- Location of exit points

C Communicate a CAN report based on the information gathered from the PAC assessment.

CAN Report:

C Conditions – What you've got
A Actions – What you're doing
N Needs – What resources you need (crews and equipment)

Once the down firefighter(s) have been removed from the IDLH atmosphere, Command shall transmit "**all clear on the MAYDAY, resume radio traffic**" on all assigned radio channels.

Docusign Envelope ID: FA1FF9BF-EFB4-8F6B-801E-D9DDB511DB82

Emergency Procedures

"MAYDAY"

Sample radio traffic

Firefighter	"EMERGENCY TRAFFIC "MAYDAY", "MAYDAY", "MAYDAY"
IC	"IC copies the "MAYDAY", go with your traffic."
Firefighter	"This is Firefighter Smith, from E1. I am disoriented in the Delta side of the building and running out of air. I need help."
IC	"IC copies Firefighter Smith from E1, disoriented in the Delta side. Activate your PASS device, stay calm, help is on the way."
IC	"IC to TR1, can you locate Firefighter Smith from E1. He is in the Delta side of the building and running low on air."
TR1	"TR1 copies moving to the Delta side."
IC	"Emergency traffic, this is IC, we have a "MAYDAY" on the fire ground from Firefighter Smith, E1. TR1 is assisting with the rescue. Hold all radio traffic."
BC 2	"IC this is Battalion 2, I will notify Fire Dispatch of the "MAYDAY," and handle dispatch traffic."
IC	"IC copies."
BC	"Dispatch, Battalion 2, we have a "MAYDAY" on this incident, give me a second alarm. Staging at Vernon and Grant, I also need two additional TAC channels."

III. Firefighter Survival

- Use the radio to give a Mayday message; include NUCAN
- Stay together
- Activate PASS
- Follow the hose line out
- Search for an exit or exterior wall
- Stay calm and conserve air
- Use hood as an SCBA face piece filter if out of air.
- Assume the horizontal position to maximize the audible effect of your PASS
- Shine flashlight toward the ceiling and make a tapping noise to assist rescuers
- In the event of radio transmission failure, activate the orange emergency button on your radio

Docusign Envelope ID: FA1FF9BF-EFB4-8F6B-801E-D9DDB511DB82

IV. Imminent Hazard / Operational Retreat

a. In the event of potential building collapse, extraordinary hazard, or a change in conditions that creates an imminent danger to personnel, members shall communicate this information by using “EMERGENCY TRAFFIC” on the radio to identify the situation, to Command. Command is responsible for making orderly and thorough contact with all on-scene personnel by requesting “EMERGENCY TRAFFIC” on the radio. Using clear text to identify the conditions, Command should announce “ALL COMPANIES EVACUATE THE BUILDING” or “CHANGE FROM AN OFFENSIVE TO A DEFENSIVE
ATTACK”, or any other critical scene information.

b. Company Officers will account for their crew members. Command should then confirm a PAR for the entire incident.

c. At the conclusion of the “EMERGENCY TRAFFIC” situation, Command should then transmit “ALL CLEAR, RESUME RADIO TRAFFIC” on all assigned radio channels to end the emergency situation.

V. Evacuation

a. The Evacuation Signal (ES) may be initiated by anyone based upon reports, recommendations, and observations during any phase of an emergency to warn of imminent danger. While operating on the emergency ground, if imminent danger from explosion, pending structural collapse, or any other emergency condition requires immediate action to prevent injury to emergency workers, the IC shall be notified immediately, and the ES activated. If the condition is emergent, activate the ES as soon as possible, before notification to the IC.

Activation of the Evacuation Signal

The Evacuation Signal will consist of:

- A brief radio message stating “All companies standby for emergency traffic” followed immediately by a series of three long blasts of the air horn repeated three (3) times. The IC shall designate specific apparatus to sound the emergency signal. A radio should be keyed on the appropriate channel during the air horn blasts so interior crews can hear the evacuation signal over the radio.

  The air horn blast will be followed up immediately with a voice message as follows:

Docusign Envelope ID: FA1FF9BF-EFB4-8F6B-801E-D9DDB511DB82

Emergency Procedures

"All companies on the Main Incident, emergency traffic", followed by a description of the reason for need, i.e. "evacuate the building, probable roof collapse." The voice message **will be repeated three times**.

- If the IC cannot be contacted in sufficient time, any individual making the observation may initiate and activate the ES.

- Upon receiving the ES, each company officer will acknowledge the message and immediately take appropriate action. If evacuation is required from their position, personnel will abandon any and all equipment and evacuate the area in coordination with their supervisor.

Upon arriving at a safety zone.

- Company Officers will account for their crew members. IC should then confirm a PAR for the entire incident.

- At the conclusion of the evacuation situation, IC should then transmit “ALL CLEAR, RESUME RADIO TRAFFIC” on all assigned radio channels to end the emergency situation.

Docusign Envelope ID: FA1FF9BF-EFB4-8F6B-801E-D9DDB511DB82

WESTERN PLACER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

SOG EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Emergency Procedures

REVIEW/REVISION HISTORY:

SOG Revised……June 2026
SOG Revised……..September 2026

The undersigned Fire Chiefs approve the contents of this document.

DocuSigned by: C5862E6CEB28477... 9/14/2026
John Rogers, Fire Chief
Auburn Fire Department

Signed by: F0991I749FBE4D5... 9/16/2026
Anthony Mejia, Fire Chief
Lincoln Fire Department

DocuSigned by: Ian Gow D202BDE14B4543D... 9/14/2026
Ian Gow, Fire Chief
Placer Hills Fire Protection District

DocuSigned by: Ian Gow D202BDE14B4543D... 9/14/2026
Ian Gow, Fire Chief
Penryn Fire Protection District

Signed by: Ryan Harrigan B4BCEF7AEC2043E... 9/8/2026
Ryan Harrigan, Fire Chief
Roseville Fire Department

Signed by: 7FCBBAA1791C45D... 9/14/2026
Dennis Martin, Fire Chief
Foresthill Fire Protection District

DocuSigned by: Jim Hudson 128AF8E02CD742A... 9/12/2026
Jim Hudson, Fire Chief
Placer County Fire Department, CAL FIRE

Signed by: Reginald Williams 0757930E86DC4C4... 9/14/2026
Reginald Williams, Fire Chief
Rocklin Fire Department

Signed by: EA9D8CA2993F41F... 9/15/2026
Darin Snedeker, Fire Chief
South Placer Fire Protection District