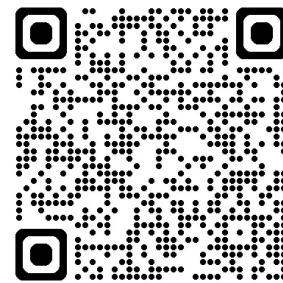




Firefighter Mayday Survey

The First 100 Summary



Mission Statement

“To compile, analyze, and share data collected objectively from real firefighter Maydays and near misses, with the goal of improving firefighter safety, training, and fireground tactics.”

Team

Founding Member: Lt. Bassel Ibrahim

Committee Members: Chief Ed Griffin, Chief/Dr. Lindsay Judah, Chief Aaron Heller, Chief Jim Crawford, Chief Walter Lewis, Lt. Seth Major

Definitions & Terminology

- **FID:** Firefighter In Distress
- **FF:** Firefighter
- **IDLH:** Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health
- **RC:** Rescue Crew (crew that performed the rescue, if other than the RIT)
- **FD:** Fire Department
- **IC:** Incident Commander
- **LODD:** Line Of Duty Death
- **RIT:** Rapid Intervention Team
- **Respondent:** Person submitting response to the survey

GENERAL INFO

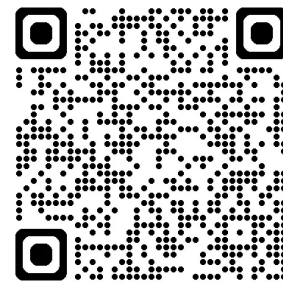
Of the first 100 reported mayday events:

- 77% included an FID with a declared mayday
- 97% occurred at an emergency incident
- 57% were formally reported
- 72% were from career fire departments
- 38% were between 2100h and 0300h
- 40% occurred in temps 70-89 degrees F
- 28% occurred in temps from 30-49 degrees F
- 89% of survey responders were operating at the scene
- 45% of survey responders were the FID
- 98% of departments have a culture allowing anyone to call out unsafe acts
- 98% of departments have individual portable radios for firefighters
- 87% of departments have a policy on dedicated RITs
- 76% of department RITs by policy are proactive



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MAYDAY INCIDENT

Of the first 100 reported mayday events:

- 31% were related to fall through floor
- 23% were related to firefighters becoming lost/disoriented
- 18% were related to structural collapse
- 10% were related to being cutoff or overrun by fire
- 73% occurred in residential homes
- 77% occurred in wood frame structures
- 88% occurred in one-story or two-story single-family residences
- 54% occurred in buildings with basements
- 92% occurred in buildings with no installed sprinkler systems
- 44% of arrival conditions indicated smoke showing but no visible fire
- 29% of arrival conditions indicated under 25% involvement
- 94% of incidents were initiated as offensive strategy
- 75% of mayday calls were initiated via radio transmission
- 86% of mayday calls over the radio did not utilize orange emergency button
- 85% of incidents had a hose line in place and flowing upon mayday declaration

FIREFIGHTER IN DISTRESS

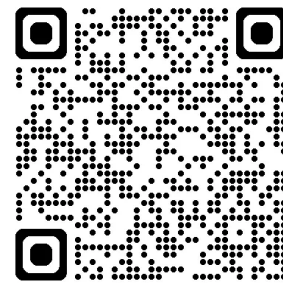
Of the first 100 reported mayday events:

- 88% FIDs were career firefighters
- 79% FIDs were working their regularly assigned shift
- 65% FIDs were working with their regularly assigned crew
- 16% FIDs were working overtime or time trade
- 12% FIDs were on the back half of a double
- 57% maydays occurred between 0 and 12 hours on duty
- 30% maydays occurred between 13 and 24 hours on duty
- 74% FIDs responded to between 0 and 5 calls during the shift prior to the mayday
- 76% FIDs had received formal survival training
- 65% FIDs were assigned to fire attack (interior)
- 23% FIDs were assigned to primary search
- 53% FIDs were located on first floor



Firefighter Mayday Survey

The First 100 Summary



- 27% FIDs were located in basement
- 17% FIDs were located on second floor
- 90% FIDs located in same area which was declared upon mayday call
- 82% FIDs attempted self-rescue
- 88% FIDs did not activate PASS
- 50% fire departments have policy to use LUNAR
- 30% fire departments have policy to use WWW
- 84% FIDs were conscious and alert upon location
- 94% FIDs were found with mask on
- 87% FIDs were found ambulatory
- 50% FIDs were found with a tool in hand
- 16% FIDs had to be fully extracted by other firefighters

RIT TEAM

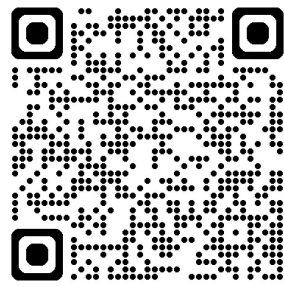
Of the first 100 reported mayday events:

- 58% of the time a formal RIT team was established prior to the mayday
- 50% of initial RIT teams consisted of four or five firefighters
- 40% of the time the RIT team was activated
- 35% FIDs self-rescued
- 28% FIDs rescued by their own crew
- 17% FIDs were rescued by another company operating nearby
- 78% RIT teams had formal RIT training
- 26% activated RITs required water protection
- 5% FIDs needed air provided by RIT
- 4% RITs utilized search line
- 34% activated RITs reported zero visibility
- 30% activated RITs reported low visibility
- 88% RITs had access to TICs
- 34% RITs utilized TICs
- 53% FIDs located by visual means
- 21% FIDs reported their location
- 20% FIDs had air issues
- 94% FIDs found with regulator clipped into mask
- 39% FIDs found with more than 3000 psi in bottle
- 49% incidents had one or two RIT packs available on scene



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- 62% FIDs were removed from same point of entry used by RIT
- 66% FIDs were located within 20' of an egress
- 55% RITs used doorway as egress
- 73% FIDs removed by three or less firefighters

COMMAND

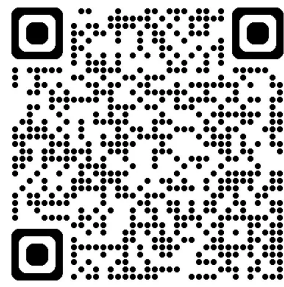
Of the first 100 reported mayday events:

- 61% first arriving officer conducted 360
- 94% maydays occurred after formal IC was established
- 34% maydays during incidents at which “there is zero visibility” was reported
- 20% maydays during incidents at which “there is fire below us” was reported
- 20% maydays during incidents at which “there are holes in floor” or “floor collapse” was reported
- 19% maydays during incidents at which “there is fire above heads” was reported
- 80% ICs kept Ops on same channel as mayday
- 72% ICs lead both Ops and mayday
- 52% ICs were stationary in vehicle
- 41% ICs were mobile outside the IDLH
- 65% maydays acknowledged on first call
- 5% ICs wore radio headset
- 55% ICs utilized accountability system
- 47% ICs requested additional alarm following mayday call
- 42% ICs had specialized training in running a mayday/RIT event
- 60% FDs do not have annual scenario-based training for maydays
- 29% ICs had an aide
- 37% FIDs declared their own mayday
- 26% FID’s crew declared the mayday
- 60% IC or a chief officer acknowledged the mayday
- 20% dispatcher acknowledged the mayday



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POST MAYDAY

Of the first 100 reported mayday events:

- 48% FIDs evaluated and treated on scene, then transported to MTF
- 50% FIDs returned to full duty (the same shift???)
- 16% FDs have a medical director who helps develop mayday/rescue protocols

DISPATCHER

Of the first 100 reported mayday events:

- 70% dispatchers were certified emergency dispatchers
- 15% were civilian with on-the-job training only
- 27% dispatchers are included in scenario-based trainings
- 48% dispatchers are engaged in FD mayday policies

TIMES

- 82% of the time FID was located within three minutes of the mayday call
- 81% of the time FID was extracted within three minutes of being located
- 61% of the time FID was extracted within three minutes of the mayday call
- 36% of the time the mayday was called at 19+ minutes from the first unit on scene
- 40% of the time water was on the fire within three minutes of the first unit scene arrival