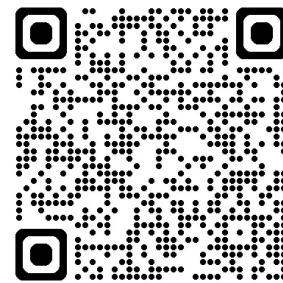




Firefighter Mayday Survey

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

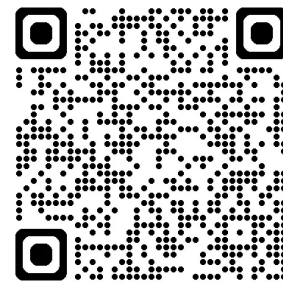
Report

Of the first 100 reports received, 77% included an FID with a declared Mayday. 97% of these reported Maydays occurred at an emergency incident. 57% of these incidents were formally reported with 72% being from career fire rescue agencies. 38% of Maydays were reported during incidents between 9:00pm and 3:00am. 40% of Maydays occurred in temperatures from 70-89 degrees and 28% occurred in temperatures from 30-49 degrees. 98% of respondents shared their department has a culture which allows members to speak up if they observe an unsafe act on the fireground. The same percentage have individual portable radios assigned. 87% shared their department has a policy/procedure for dedicated RIT, with 76% being proactive.



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Mayday Incident

The top four emergency types resulting in a Mayday were, 31% were a fall through the floor, 23% were from becoming lost/disoriented, 18% were from structural collapse, and 10% stated they were cut off or overrun by fire. 73% of incidents occurred in a residential home (77% wood frame) and no reported incidents occurred in a high-rise. 88% occurred in a one- or two-story residence and 54% had a basement. 92% of the locations were not sprinkled. 44% of respondents shared initial arriving conditions were smoke showing, no visible fire from exterior. 29% of respondents stated that under 25% of the structure was involved. 94% began operations in an offensive strategy. 75% of Maydays were made via radio transmission requesting help and 86% reported the emergency button was not activated. 85% reported a hoseline being in place and flowing when the Mayday was declared.

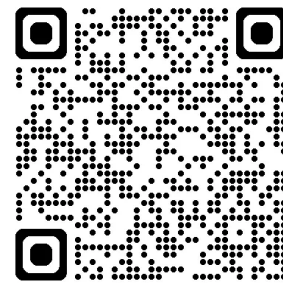
Firefighter In Distress

88% reported to be career firefighters and 79% were working their regularly assigned shift. 65% were working with their regularly assigned crew. 16% said they were working overtime or a time trade and 12% stated they were on the back half of a double (between ~24-48 hours on-duty). 57% of reported Maydays occurred between 0-12 hours on-duty, and 30% occurred between 13-24 hours on-duty. 74% responded to 0-5 calls prior to the declared Mayday. 76% reported to have received formal survival training. 65% reported to be assigned to fire attack (interior) and 23% were assigned to primary search. 53% were located on the first floor, 27% were located in the basement, and 17% were located on the second floor. 90% of the time the FID was located in the same area as declared in the Mayday and 82% attempted self-rescue. 88% did not activate their PASS alarm. 50% of respondents state their department policy uses LUNAR (Location - Unit - Name - Air Supply - Resources Needed) and 30% reported their agency uses WWW (Who - What - Where). 84% of Firefighters in Distress were located as conscious and alert and 94% had their SCBA mask on. 87% were reported to be ambulatory and roughly half had a tool in their possession. Less than 16% had to be fully removed by others.



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RIT / Rescue Team

58% of the time a formal RIT team was established prior to the Mayday. 50% of respondents stated there were either three or four firefighters on the initial RIT team and 40% reported that the RIT team was deployed. 35% completed a self-rescue, 28% were rescued by their crew, and 17% were rescued by another company operating on the interior. 78% reported receiving formal RIT training by their agency. 26% of deployed RIT's needed water protection. Less than 5% of FIDs needed air from RIT and less than 4% of RITs used a search line. Upon initial contact with FID, 34% reported zero visibility and 31% reported low visibility. 88% of RITs had access to a thermal imaging camera and 34% reported using the thermal imaging camera. The factors which best contributed to locating the FID were 53% having visual contact and 21% reported their location. 20% reported having an air issue. 94% reported having a regulator in place and clipped into the mask. 39% had greater than 3,000 psi in their SCBA bottle. 49% of incidents reported to have one or two RIT packs available. No FIDs were packaged prior to extraction and 62% were removed from the same point of entry used by the RIT. 66% of FIDs were located within 20ft of an egress. 55% of RITs used a doorway as an egress point. 21 firefighters were removed using stairs, 15 were removed using ground ladders, and 13 were reportedly removed via windows. 73% of FIDs were removed by three firefighters or less.

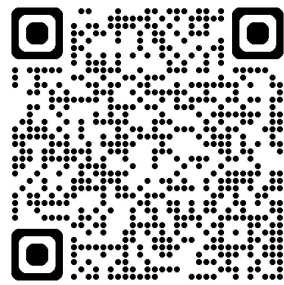
Command

61% report the first arriving company completed a 360. 94% of Maydays occurred after the formal Incident Commander was on scene/established. 34 respondents reported to hear, "There's zero visibility", 20 reported, "There's fire below us". 20 reported, "Holes in the floor or floor collapse". 19 reported, "There's fire above our heads." 80% kept fire operations on the Mayday radio channel. 72% of Incident Commanders led both the fire operations and Mayday. 42% reported the Incident Commander had advanced/specialized training in managing RIT operations. 60% of respondents shared that they do not have annual scenario-based training including Mayday incidents. 52% of respondents reported the Incident Commander was Stationary (inside command vehicle) and 41% stated they were mobile outside of the IDLH. 29% of Incident Commanders reported having an aide. 37% of respondents stated the FID is who declared the Mayday. 26% reported that the FID



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crew called the Mayday. 60% of the time the Incident Commander or Chief Officer acknowledged the Mayday. 20% of the time Dispatch acknowledged the Mayday. 65% reported that the Mayday was acknowledged on the first call out. Less than 5% of Incident Commanders were reported to use a headset. 55% report a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) being completed and 47% report an additional alarm being requested after receipt of the Mayday.

Post Mayday

48% report the FID was evaluated and treated on scene and transported to a medical facility. 50% returned to full-duty. 16% of respondents stated their Medical Director helps guide Mayday Rescue protocols.

Dispatcher

70 dispatchers were noted to be certified emergency dispatchers. 15 were civilians and received training on the job only. 27% of dispatchers are included in scenario-based training and 48% of dispatchers are engaged in fire rescue agency Mayday policies.

Time/Benchmarks

81% of the time the FID is located and extracted in under three minutes.

