

HR LF	HR HF	Fire Department Town of Belmont NH 03220	STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE	SOG NO: OPS 12-009
LR LF	LR HF		Title: Mayday	EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/26/2012
				REVISION NO: 00

I) PURPOSE/SCOPE/APPLICATION

- A) The purpose of this SOG is to outline procedures for calling a “mayday” if Belmont Fire Department personnel become trapped, missing or injured at emergency incidents, training or preparedness drills.
- B) The rescuing of a trapped, injured or missing firefighter can be one of the most challenging tasks firefighters may ever have to perform; this SOG is meant to assist firefighters in activating a RIC and preventing chaos.
- C) This SOG shall apply to all Belmont Fire Department personnel as well as mutual aid companies operating in Belmont
- D) This SOG shall be applied at any incident Belmont Fire Department personnel are operating at.

II) REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- A) “Calling a mayday” program developed and produced by American Heat, the US Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy

III) DEFINITIONS

- A) **Mayday**- Distress calls to get help for lost, injured, trapped or otherwise incapacitated firefighters.
- B) **IDLH**- Any atmosphere which can cause death or serious injury with prolonged exposure, this includes atmospheres contaminated with the products of combustion or oxygen deficient atmospheres.
- C) **RIC**- Rapid Intervention crew: Team of at least 3 firefighters designated by the Incident Commander to perform rescue operations when a Mayday is called.
- D) **PAR**: Personnel Accountability Report: A organized check of all companies working at the Incident
- E) **20 Minute Mark**; Every 20 minutes into an incident that requires SCBA or Special Operations, LRMFA shall notify the IC that they have reached an additional 20 minute mark.

IV) SPECIALIZED ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A) It shall be the responsibility of all personnel to be familiar with this SOG
- B) It shall be the responsibility of any incident commander to enforce this Standard Operating Guideline

HR LF	HR HF	Fire Department Town of Belmont NH 03220 	STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE	SOG NO: OPS 12-009
LR LF	LR HF		Title: Mayday	EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/26/2012 REVISION NO: 00

V) SAFETY

- A) A significant number of missing or trapped firefighters die as a result of asphyxiation or inhalation of toxic fire products. It is essential that rescue efforts focus on locating the missing or trapped firefighters, maintaining their air supply and a defensible space prior to or concurrently with extrication operations

VI) ENFORCEMENT

- A) Failure to understand this Standard Operating Guideline may result in disciplinary action.
- B) Any deviation from this Standard Operating Guideline **Shall** require a written report to the Officer in Charge and the Deputy Chief.
- C) This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee’s civil liability in any way. The policy should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party civil claims against employees. A violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department for non-judicial administrative action in accordance with the laws governing employee discipline.

VII) STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

- A) If a team or individual firefighter cannot be located through a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) or is injured and in need of assistance, a “mayday” message will be transmitted on the fire ground channel. If a firefighter encounters difficulty in contacting the Incident Commander on the fire ground channel in this situation, the firefighter can use channel 1. This channel shall be monitored by the Incident Commander or his/her aide at all incidents that involve personnel operating in an IDLH atmosphere, or otherwise hazardous area.
- B) Individual firefighters or teams must not delay reporting to their team leader or to the Incident Commander if they become lost, trapped or otherwise in need of assistance, it is imperative to the success of any rescue operation that firefighters quickly recognize this need for and call a mayday as soon as possible. Division/group supervisors must also not delay the reporting of lost firefighters or inability to complete accountability reports. Delay compromises the ‘window of survivability’. A “Mayday” can be canceled if it is found to be not needed after it has been called. The following situations shall be recognized as **mandatory** “Mayday” situations in which a “Mayday” **shall** be called:
 - 1) **Fall-** a firefighter has fallen, this can be any type of significant fall involving falling through a floor or stairwell, falling off of a ladder, ledge or roof, or falling into something such as a pit, hole or water hazard.

HR LF	HR HF	Fire Department Town of Belmont NH 03220	STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE	SOG NO: OPS 12-009
LR LF	LR HF		Title: Mayday	EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/26/2012
				REVISION NO: 00

- 2) **Collapse-** a firefighter has been involved in some type of structural collapse such as a ceiling, floor, roof or building.
 - 3) **Low air alarm-** if a firefighter has been separated from his/her group and/or is unsure of his/her surroundings and or the path to the exit and the low alarm on their SCBA begins sounding.
 - 4) **Caught-** firefighter has been caught or entangled in wires or some other object which is preventing forward or backward movement.
 - 5) **Lost-** firefighter has become lost or disoriented.
 - 6) **Trapped-** a firefighter has become trapped by debris, machinery or something else.
- C) Upon transmitting a MAYDAY and receiving acknowledgement of the mayday from the Incident Commander the trapped and or injured firefighter shall, when possible give the following information to the Incident Commander based on the acronym LUNAR:
- 1) **L-Location,** if known inside the structure or outside the structure
 - 2) **U-Unit,** unit lost, downed or trapped firefighter was with, i.e. Engine 1
 - 3) **N-Name** of member calling mayday
 - 4) **A-Air,** how much air member has remaining
 - 5) **R-Resources,** what resources do the member calling a mayday need i.e. spare air bottle, forcible entry tools etc?
- D) Once a situation is recognized as a “Mayday” situation, a “Mayday” shall be called. Example radio transmissions are as follows: **“Mayday, mayday, mayday, this is firefighter Jones with Engine 1”** Command shall acknowledge the “Mayday, **“Command to firefighter Jones go ahead with your Mayday report” , “This is firefighter Jones I have fallen through a floor in the A-C corner of the house and I believe I am in the basement. I am trapped underneath a pile of debris and cannot get myself out. I am unsure on how much air I have”.** A “Mayday” can also be initiated by someone not trapped or injured, example: **“Mayday, mayday, mayday, this is Lieutenant Smith”** Command shall acknowledge the “Mayday, **“Command to Lieutenant Smith go ahead with your Mayday report” Engine 2 crew cannot be raised by a radio PAR, their last know location was side A, floor number 2, status unknown.”**
- E) Any report of “mayday” shall receive priority radio traffic followed by an emergency traffic tone. Upon receiving a “Mayday” the incident commander shall:
- (a) Notify LRMFA communications of the mayday

HR LF	HR HF	Fire Department Town of Belmont NH 03220	STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE	SOG NO: OPS 12-009
LR LF	LR HF		Title: Mayday	EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/26/2012
				REVISION NO: 00

- (b) Try and get as much information as possible regarding **LUNAR**
- (c) Confirm/Order the RIC into operation after briefing them with as much information as is available.
- (d) Inform member(s) initiating a “Mayday” that the RIC has been activated and remind them to activate their PASS devices if possible.
- (e) Order all operations to another designated channel with the exception of the Mayday and the RIC.
- (f) Initiate a PAR for all members or teams on the fire ground to determine the identity of the missing firefighter(s). If the location of the trapped firefighter(s) is known, the RIC should be activated prior to initiating a PAR.
- (g) Call for additional resource (additional alarms)
- (h) Assign another team as RIC. Implementing rescue operations do not lessen the need to maintain a RIC for ongoing operations (as well as to support the rescue effort).
- (i) Mandatory Notifications, the Incident Commander shall notify the Fire Chief and Deputy Chief as soon as possible in any mayday situation.

NOTE: Firefighting or other tactical operations shall not be abandoned as to place the rescue operation in jeopardy, and it may be necessary to reinforce those operations with additional resources as well.

- 2) Important items to remember to assist with survival are:
- (a) **Stay Together.** Firefighters that separate from each other make it difficult for rescuers to find all that are lost/trapped. Teams that stay intact enhance the chances for ALL being rescued and allows easier, more efficient extrication
 - (b) **Activate PASS Device.** The firefighter(s)’ PASS device must be manually activated to sound the audible tone. The device must remain ON until rescue has occurred. If the device interferes with the lost firefighter(s)’ ability to communicate critical radio messages, the device may be turned off momentarily. Once messages are completed, the device must again be manually activated
 - (c) **Follow the Hose or Lifeline Out.** Firefighters should stay with the hose line (or lifeline) and follow it out whenever possible. All firefighters must remember that the male side of the couplings lead toward the nozzle/female side of the couplings toward the pump

HR LF	HR HF	Fire Department Town of Belmont NH 03220 	STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE	SOG NO: OPS 12-009
LR LF	LR HF		Title: Mayday	EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/26/2012 REVISION NO: 00

- (d) **Search for An Exit.** A lost firefighter should always attempt to get out of the building by whatever means possible. Where doors, windows, or other egress is not available, firefighters would next attempt to reach an exterior wall. Once at the wall he/she will be able to search for doorways, windows, and hallways that generally lead to the outside. Rescuers will first search hallways, around walls, and around windows and doors, before sweeping large interior areas. For this reason, firefighters must avoid staying in the middle of open spaces
- (e) **Retreat to a Safe Refuge.** Where the firefighter cannot find a way out, but there is a safe refuge (protected room or floor) away from the fire that the firefighter can retreat to, he/she should take advantage of this location. Incident Command and the rescuers should then be advised of the location by whatever means possible
- (f) **Stay Calm and Conserve Air.** A conscious effort must be made by the lost firefighter(s) to control breathing. Unnecessary talking or physical activity must be avoided or controlled in order to extend their SCBA air supply
- (g) **SCBA Face piece Filter.** If the SCBA air supply is depleted, the firefighter may use the protective hood as a filter for toxic atmospheres. The hood may be placed in or over the face piece open inhalation valve attachment area
- (h) **Horizontal Position.** If a firefighter cannot get out, he/she should assume a horizontal position on the floor that maximizes the audible effect of the PASS device; this also maximizes the space that a firefighter takes up making it easier for searching firefighters to locate.
- (i) **Flashlight.** While awaiting rescue, firefighters should attempt to position his/her flashlight beam toward the ceiling. This will enhance the rescuer's ability to see the light and locate the trapped/lost firefighter. If able, the lost/trapped firefighter should attempt tapping noises to assist rescuers (i.e., hitting a tool against a metal roll-up door)
- (j) **Tapping Noise.** Firefighters trapped or lost should try and make noise(s) that will assist searching firefighters in locating them.

VIII) RECORDS, REPORTS, CHARTS, FORMS

- A) AWARE Protocol

HR LF	HR HF	Fire Department Town of Belmont NH 03220	STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE	SOG NO: OPS 12-009
LR LF	LR HF		Title: Mayday	EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/26/2012
				REVISION NO: 00

AUTHENTICATION

SOG NO: OPS 12-009

Number of Pages: 6

Approved By: *wp*

Revision: 00

Sog Review Dates:
03/11/2013
06/12/2014 dlp

A.W.A.R.E. Protocol

The acronym A.W.A.R.E. developed by Lieutenant Jay Olson of the Portland Fire Bureau provides a basic plan of action for supporting a trapped firefighter (or civilian).

A significant number of missing or trapped firefighters die as a result of asphyxiation or inhalation of toxic fire products. It is essential that rescue efforts focus on locating the missing or trapped firefighters, maintaining their air supply and a defensible space prior to or concurrently with extrication operations.

A	The most critical need in supporting a trapped firefighter (or civilian) is to maintain <u>AIR</u> supply.
W	Application of <u>WATER</u> is used to create a defensible space and protect the victim from the fire.
AR	<u>A RADIO</u> on a dedicated talk group or frequency provides the critical link between the victim and rescuers.
E	<u>EXTRICATION</u> From the hazardous environment may be accomplished quickly or may take an extended time.