



Jackson Hole Fire/EMS

Operations Manual

Approved by:

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Title: HazMat Response
Emergencies and Mayday Ops

Division: 19

Article: 4

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SECTION 1 - PURPOSE

The purpose of the Hazardous Materials Response Emergencies and Mayday Ops Guidelines are to establish actions by Entry/Back-up Team members following an emergency and to ensure a Rescue Team (also referred to as Rapid Intervention Crew) is established for firefighter rescue.

SECTION II – GENERAL PROVISIONS

- As with all Maydays the best chance for survival is to NOT become the victim of a mayday.
- A Medic Unit on scene or alternative measures for assessment, stabilization and transportation for an injured/ill firefighter established.
- A Rescue Team will be implemented at all hazardous materials incidents requiring entry in Chemical Protective Clothing (CPC).
- The Rescue Team will consist of 2-4 firefighters donned in nothing higher than a Level B, non-encapsulating suit.
- The Rescue Team reduces the time it takes to move and decon a member.
- Communication shall be on a Radio Channel that is recorded and monitored by Dispatch, if available.
- A Rescue Plan will be developed and discussed prior to any entry into a hazardous material hot zone.

SECTION III – EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Mayday

Hazmat personnel who experience a Mayday situation will follow current Jackson Hole Fire/EMS procedures for managing Maydays. See JHFEMS 14-5 Survival and RIC Policy.

Responder Emergency Alerting Signals

Responders, in case of radio failure, shall use the following hand signals:

- One hand on top of head: Okay
- One hand extended above the head: Distress
- Pointing above the horizon: Move in that direction

- Both arms crossed in front of chest: Need medical help
- Palm shown: Stop

SECTION IV – EMERGENCY SCENARIOS

Uncontrolled Fire/Explosion Alerting Procedure

1. Incident Commander, using radio, will announce to all involved in the area to evacuate
2. Air horns on emergency response vehicles will sound with three blasts to indicate emergency evacuation

Loss of Air/System Failure

1. Declare Mayday, provide Who, What, Where information after Mayday is acknowledged
2. Notify partner
3. When in an encapsulation suit, remove SCBA facepiece and breathe slowly from
4. exhaled air inside suit.
 - a. Do not squat or otherwise push air from encapsulation suit.
 - b. The exhalation valve, if possible may be removed once exit from hot zone has been accomplished. (this should be a last resort)
5. For non-encapsulated suit, disconnect air hose and reconnect to partner's EBSS connection.
6. Leave hot zone immediately with partner
7. Request aid from back-up team (if needed)
8. Proceed to decontamination area for emergency decontamination (if required) and suit removal

Puncture, Tear or Other Suit Breach

1. Fold suit material over puncture or tear and hold in position with hand
2. Declare Mayday, provide Who, What, Where information after Mayday is acknowledged
3. Notify partner
4. Leave hot zone immediately with partner
5. Request aid from back-up team (if needed)
6. Proceed to decontamination area for emergency decontamination (if required) and suit removal

Injury or Illness

1. Declare Mayday, provide Who, What, Where information after Mayday is acknowledged
2. Notify partner, if you are having the emergency
3. If partner has collapsed, make every attempt to provide an assessment and assistance.
4. Do not remove chemical protective clothing while in hot zone unless area is safe to do so and no contamination is present.
5. Assist Rescue Team in removing partner, unless air supply is low

Personal Protective Equipment Failure

1. Declare Mayday, provide Who, What, Where information after Mayday is acknowledged
2. If any responder experiences a failure or alteration of their PPE, that person AND his/her buddy shall immediately exit the hot zone. Re-entry shall not be permitted until the equipment has been properly repaired or replaced
3. The "buddy system" shall be used at all times

SECTION IV – RESCUE TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- Will remain in a ready state to immediately react and respond to a Mayday.
- Establish a cache of tools for the Rescue Team
- Will report to the HazMat Group Supervisor during the State of readiness and will report directly to the IC if Rescue Team is initiated.
- Multiple Rescue Teams may be required for an incident depending on size and complexity of the incident.
- Continuously monitor Command and Tactical radio frequencies for location and actions of Entry Team.
- Rescue Team will be responsible for locating and packaging downed Firefighter.
- Rescue Team will transition the downed Firefighter to the Decon corridor.
- Rescue Team will evacuate the downed Firefighter from the CPC.

SECTION V – TRAINING

Mayday training will take place annually at RERT #8 quarterly training and at the annual HazMat Refresher Training for each company/station.

Company officers should use these drill times to review this policy and reinforce when an individual should call a Mayday. Think of specific situation to discuss – “Would you call a Mayday if?” etc.

HAZMAT RESCUE TEAM CHECKLIST

- Receive an initial Briefing from the HazMat Group Supervisor
- Information gathering from Research Team
- Review Incident Action Plan
- Identify all Entry Teams prior to their making entry
- Confirm Tactical and Command Radio Channels
- Perform a 360 of the incident if possible
- Egress potential issues
- Hot Zone shelter locations and decon capabilities

Select PPE and Rescue Equipment

- Non Encapsulating “B” OR Firefighting Turn Out Gear based on Hazard
- Entry Team Operating in an open area – Litter is a better choice of equipment
- Entry Team Operating in an enclosed area with tight spaces – Sked is a better choice of equipment

Formulate MAYDAY- EVAC plan

- Create Mayday/Evac plan with Entry/Backup Teams
- Review Hazmat Mayday Evac Flow Chart w/ Entry/Backup Teams
- Route of egress
- Coordinate with Decon Team for route, location, and emergency decon procedure
- Designate Rescue Team members for roles and responsibilities
- Pre Plan Medical team transition after decon
- Ensure a Ready State when Entry/Backup Teams enter Hot Zone
- Review Plan with Rescue Team after teams enter hot zone