

TAMAQUA FIRE DEPARTMENT

MAYDAY Signal

OPERATING GUIDELINES  
OPERATIONS #105.00

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11/06/05

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The term "MAYDAY" is to be used by any firefighting personnel who may find themselves trapped, disoriented, or otherwise in imminent danger within the fire building or hazardous area (i.e. Hot Zone).

Radio transmission should be: "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY"

Personnel transmitting the "MAYDAY" signal should, if at all possible, include the following information:

1) Location - this should include the floor, room, location by direction, side of the building (e.g. side 1, 2, 3 or 4), etc. This is the most critical information needed by the IC, FAST Company, and other firefighting personnel.

2) Special tools or other equipment which may be needed to effect rescue.

3) Any other pertinent information (e.g. proximity to the fire and need for hoseline placement).

4) Amount of air remaining in SCBA.

\*\*\*PASS device(s) should be activated to facilitate rescue\*\*\*

The IC will acknowledge the MAYDAY transmission through the Schuylkill County Communications Center. The Communications Center, in implementing its MAYDAY protocol (SEE PAGE 2), shall announce the MAYDAY transmission, the location of the incident, and request that all non-emergency traffic be held on the fireground frequency.

Fire ground communications should be moved to an alternate radio channel to allow radio silence on MAYDAY channel for IC, Firefighter and FAST/RIT team transmissions.

Normal Fire Ground #46.58, Alternate Fire Ground #46.50

If personnel transmitting the MAYDAY feel that their transmission has not been received, they shall attempt to contact the Schuylkill County Communications Center directly.

**UPON RECEIPT OF THE MAYDAY SIGNAL, ALL FIRE SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY SHOULD CONTINUE UNLESS SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED OTHERWISE BY THE IC.**

A radio broadcast is to be made to operating units and to the Schuylkill County Communications Center when the MAYDAY is resolved.

**NOTE: THE MAYDAY SIGNAL IS ONLY TO BE USED TO DECLARE THAT FIRE PERSONNEL ARE IN DISTRESS.**

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**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER  
DISTRESS SIGNALING**

**MAYDAY SIGNAL-**

THE TERM “**MAYDAY**” IS TO BE USED BY ANY FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL WHO MAY FIND THEMSELVES TRAPPED, DISORIENTED OR OTHERWISE IN IMMINENT DANGER WITHIN THE FIRE BUILDING OR HAZARDOUS AREA. THIS SIGNAL WILL BE RECOGNIZED BY THE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER WITH THE HIGHEST REGARD. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE TRANSMIT THE MESSAGE TWICE.

PERSONNEL TRANSMITTING THE “**MAYDAY**” SIGNAL SHOULD, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. **LOCATION**—THIS SHOULD INCLUDE THE FLOOR, ROOM, LOCATION BY DIRECTION, SIDE OF BUILDING (ie. SIDE 1,2,3,4 ) ,ETC.  
**\*\*THIS IS THE MOST CRITICAL INFORMATION NEEDED FOR THE TELECOMMUNICATOR.\*\***
2. SPECIAL TOOLS OR OTHER EQUIPMENT WHICH MAY BE NEEDED TO EFFECT A RESCUE
3. ANY OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION WHICH THE FIREFIGHTER MAY TRANSMIT.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS WILL ACKNOWLEDGE THE “**MAYDAY**” TRANSMISSION AND “**IMMEDIATELY**” REBROADCAST THE TRANSMISSION AND REQUIRE RADIO SILENCE.

THE INCIDENT COMMANDER WILL BE CONTACTED AND ALL INFORMATION FROM THE MAYDAY CALL WILL BE GIVEN AT THAT TIME. THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER WILL MAINTAIN RADIO SILENCE ON THAT FREQUENCY UNTIL INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE BY THE INCIDENT COMMANDER. IF “**MAYDAY**” IS BROADCASTED OVER A FREQUENCY THAT THE COUNTY DOESN'T MONITOR, THE IC SHOULD NOTIFY THE COUNTY ASAP. COUNTY WILL THEN REQUEST RADIO SILENCE ON ALL FREQUENCIES UNTIL INSTRUCTED BY THE IC.

**NOTE: MAYDAY** IS ONLY TO BE USED TO DECLARE THAT FIRE PERSONNEL ARE IN DISTRESS. THE TERMS *URGENT* OR *PRIORITY* ARE TO BE USED FOR ANY OTHER CRITICAL FIREGROUND INFORMATION.