Title: Ejection Parameters/MAYDAY Declaration Indicators

01. Purpose:

Document to enhance and focus with SOP 2000-02 “MAYDAY, Emergency Button Activation”

The following is a guideline and indicators that entitles a Firefighter to “eject” from a hazardous situation. These indicators are called Ejection Parameters. Followed by Firefighter MAYDAY Declaration Indicators.

The Washington County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (WCVRA), Hagerstown Fire Department (HFD), and Division of Emergency Services (DES) never want to encounter a Firefighter MAYDAY. Providing education and training for our firefighters is critical to prevent a MAYDAY from happening through Ejection Parameters. The following are fire ground indicators or triggers that entitle a firefighter to leave a structure or any hazardous situation.

National statistics have verified that once a firefighter declares a MAYDAY “it is usually too late, the chances of successful rescue of a downed firefighter are very small”. It is critical that our firefighters are aware that “it is ok to leave a hazardous situation” and prevent a MAYDAY event.

Ejection Parameters:

- If you (or your partner) are injured, **eject**.
- If you’re SCBA Malfunctions, **eject**.
- If your air supply is low, **eject**.
- If you have used ½ of your air supply getting to your current position, **eject**.
- If your PPE is compromised, **eject**.
- If you have lost all radio communications, **eject**.
- If backdraft/flashover conditions exist, **eject**.
- If fire threatens your escape route, **eject**.
- If indicators of building collapse exist, **eject**.
- If water supply is lost, **eject**.
- If electrical hazards are encountered, **eject**.
- If fire attack is ineffective, BTU’s are absorbing GPM’s, **eject**.
- If you (or your partner) are exhausted, **eject**.
- If you encounter heavy fuel load with heavy fire e.g. upholstery shop, hoarding situation, **eject**.
- If you encounter intentionally set hazards e.g. explosives, traps, etc., **eject**.
- If you encounter unexpected hazardous materials e.g. drug lab, **eject**.
- If the Incident Commander (IC) orders immediate evacuation, **eject**.
The following are guidelines and indicators to call for a MAYDAY Declaration:

- If you (or your partner) are injured and unable to eject.
- Entrapment with low air alarm activation.
- Falling through a floor or roof.
- If you’re SCBA malfunctions and you are unable to eject.
- Entrapment and unable to extricate within 60 seconds.
- Caught in a flashover and unable to escape.
- Becoming lost or disoriented, both you and your partner.
- No reference point in zero visibility with unknown direction to exit.
- Primary exit blocked by fire or collapse and unable to reach a secondary exit in 30 seconds.
- Unable to locate an exit in 60 seconds.
- If you have depleted your air supply with alarm activation.

Incident Commander Actions

- The critical objective is to locate the downed firefighter(s).
- Initiate Rapid Intervention Team (RIT). The IC and RIT will communicate their plan.
- All priority radio traffic will be with the MAYDAY Firefighter, RIT, and the IC. All unnecessary radio traffic will not be tolerated.
- The IC may have ALL Tactical Operations placed on another talk group.
- Fire Ground Discipline is of Highest Priority THERE IS NO DIPLOMACY ON THE FIRE GROUND!
- The Incident Commander (IC) must make critical decisions; the window of survivability is very small. Minutes are critical and will make the difference of saving the downed firefighter or the reality of a Line of Duty Death (LODD).
- The lack of an effective rescue plan is the leading contributing factor to firefighter deaths.

Approved: James Sprecher Jr., President

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