



Lunenburg Regional
FES
Fire & Emergency Services

General Operating Guideline # 802

Subject: Mayday

Approval: March 19, 2026

Section 1: Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to establish best practices concerning the means for communicating an evacuation order and a response to downed firefighter trapped, disorientated or otherwise incapacitated on the fire ground.

Section 2: Scope

The guideline on the use of the Mayday procedure is applicable to Lunenburg Regional Fire and Emergency Service personnel.

Section 3: Definitions:

MAYDAY:

Shall be the standard verbal radio transmission used when a firefighter or firefighters find themselves in a life threatening situation or become disorientated, lost, injured, trapped, out of air, or any other instance where he/she needs immediate assistance.

Evacuation Order:

The immediate termination of interior firefighting operations accompanied by the immediate removal of all firefighters from the structure. It shall be the responsibility of the Incident Command to request an evacuation order.

Urgent:

Shall be used to identify all other urgent messages for tactical considerations.

Section 4: MAYDAY Procedure:

In the event a firefighter is down, trapped, disorientated, incapacitated, or believes an imminent threat to life and safety exists, the firefighter or partner will immediately, without hesitation, issue a "MAYDAY" over the fire ground channel. (MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY)

TMR2 Radios now have an Orange Button on the top of the radio, that when pressed alerts the 911 system Operator that a firefighter is in an Immediate MAYDAY Condition. That Firefighter will be contacted by the 911 Operator to confirm the emergency.

This will serve to notify the Incident Commander and all other companies operating at the incident that a firefighter is in need of immediate emergency assistance.

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Upon hearing the MAYDAY all further radio transmissions shall cease unless there is information directly related to the firefighters in distress with the exception of the firefighter initiating the MAYDAY and the Incident Commander, or any other Chief / Officer designated by the Incident Commander.

Incident Commander will advise, "All Units we have a MAYDAY".

The Incident Commander shall:

Assign someone in the Command Post to get on the Firefighter's channel and make contact with the firefighter.

Request emergency traffic and provide companies operating on the incident, details of the MAYDAY.

Develop a High Priority Rescue effort to rescue the fire fighter(s).

The Incident Commander should try to establish "LUNAR" with the distressed firefighter(s).

L – Location (Where are you?)

U – Unit (Engine 21)

N - Name

A – Assignment (Search, Attack, Backup, Vent, Air supply)

R – Resources you Need (Are you pinned, trapped, out of air, entangled, near the fire?)

Incident Commander shall request a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) by all officers / firefighters in charge of crews. They should take immediate roll call and report any discrepancies to the Incident Commander.

Immediately assign rescue crews to the Mayday Channel.

Initiating the Evacuation Order:

If the fire conditions warrant an evacuation, the Incident Commander shall immediately alert his/her interior firefighters by transmitting "EVACUATE, EVACUATE, EVACUATE"

All firefighters shall immediately cease operations leaving hose and tools behind and evacuate the structure. The purpose of leaving hoses and tools are for the Quick and Immediate Safe evacuation of the Firefighters.

Upon hearing the evacuation order, all driver / operators shall proceed to sound their air horns for approximately 30 seconds in three (3) blast intervals. All members operating on the fire ground will return to their assigned unit for a PAR.

It shall be the responsibility of the officer / firefighter in charge of the interior and exterior crews to ensure compliance with the evacuation order and to check in at the command post once they have safely evacuated.

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The Incident Commander may request an incident wide PAR when it is undetermined that all officers / firefighters have safely evacuated. In the event a PAR is requested, all non-emergency radio communications will cease and officers / firefighters in charge will take account of members operating within their span of control and report any missing members to the Incident Commander.

EMERGENCY Procedure:

An emergency message may be transmitted by any firefighter operating on the fire ground to communicate information to the Incident Commander and firefighters.

The firefighter will announce their unit and position and advise the Incident Commander of an "Emergency" message.

After the Incident Commander acknowledges the "Emergency call sign", the firefighter will transmit the "Emergency" message.