

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines
Fireground Operations

Fireground Operations, SOG 3.20

FIREFIGHTER EMERGENCY/MAYDAY

1. Intent and Purpose

UCFD personnel may become lost, trapped, disoriented, down due to an injury, or otherwise in need of assistance during an emergency incident. Personnel may also find themselves in a situation that has potential to cause bodily harm to themselves or others at the scene of an emergency. This general guideline addresses these instances as a **FIREFIGHTER EMERGENCY, MAYDAY, or FIREFIGHTER IN TROUBLE.**

2. EMERGENCY/MAYDAY CALL

Prior to entering hazard zone personnel shall verify radio setting and arm pass device. The flashlight should be turned on when the pass device is armed as an extra safety device

- a. The Firefighter(s) should immediately initiate an EMERGENCY or MAYDAY when they are in need of assistance (i.e. Lost/Trapped/Missing/Injured, etc.) on the radio to the IC, of his/her situation, followed by location and report if possible. If possible initial call should include the amount of air remaining.
- b. Note: Each Firefighter on the fireground must make their own determination if they are having, their crew is having, or there is an EMERGENCY vs. a MAYDAY on the fireground. The earlier recognized and acted upon, the greater the chances that there will be a successful outcome. An EMERGENCY can and should be upgraded to a MAYDAY if needed. All of the information in this SOG should be reinforced through regular training.

An **EMERGENCY** is a report of **possible** trouble or dangerous situation.

A **MAYDAY** is a report of **immediate** trouble or dangerous situation.

- b. Note: A firefighter or company officer should broadcast “Emergency Traffic” as a minimum, to notify the IC of a potentially hazardous situation. The Incident Commander may utilize his judgment in dealing with the situation and may upgrade the situation as he or she sees fit.

Stay Calm, Preserve Your Air Supply
Activate PASS
Situation/Problem Reporting
Stay Together if Lost or Trapped as a Crew
Search for an Exit
Attempt to Follow a Hose/Life Line to Safety
Retreat to an Area of Safety

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Horizontal Positioning
Flashlights/Tapping

3. FIREFIGHTER IN TROUBLE
FIREFIGHTER IN TROUBLE indicates the immediate need to dispatch Law Enforcement to the scene (i.e. scene is no longer safe for emergency crews).
Appropriate Law Enforcement will be dispatched to the designated location. The nearest Engine, Medic and Chief Officer will also be dispatched. The arriving Engine, Medic, and Chief should stage a safe distance away from the location.
 - a. In the event Fire or EMS personnel feel threatened, the entire crew should make every attempt to BACK OUT of the immediate area to a safe location.
 - b. Immediate follow-up information will be relayed to the dispatch center of the progressing situation (once the crew can safely do so).