



## Managing the Firefighter Emergency

### Managing the Firefighter Emergency

This chapter on Managing Firefighter Emergencies is a component of the Kitsap County Incident Management Procedures. It is not intended to be a standalone document, as the prevention and management of fire ground emergencies requires a thorough understanding of the standard operating procedures, including; Leadership, **Risk Management**, the Incident Command System, Accountability, Communications, and Incident Action Planning.

A firefighter emergency requires the same Incident Management procedures as any other incident. Upon the receiving the 'Mayday' call, the Incident Commander must update the Incident Action Plan based on the life safety issue, and implement that plan in a decisive manner. The effective mitigation of the firefighter emergency will require actions to be taken specific to the role of the Incident Commander, the Safety Officer, as well as the individual assigned to Manage the 'Mayday'. Managing the 'Mayday' specifically refers to:

- Communicating with the 'Mayday' firefighter / team
- Supervising the teams directly assigned to rescue/assist the 'Mayday' firefighter / team.
- Coordinating the self-survival action of the 'Mayday' firefighter with those of the rescue team(s)
- Coordinating the firefighter rescue with the ongoing incident management, specifically the incident stabilization necessary to protect the 'Mayday' firefighter

Based on the scope and nature of the incident these three separate roles (Incident Command, Safety Officer, and individual Managing the 'Mayday') may be retained by the Incident Commander, or assigned to Fire Officers in a manner that best provides for the safety of the 'Mayday' firefighter and all personnel.

#### 1.0 Prevention

Case studies and procedural analysis continually demonstrate that the most effective means to successfully provide for responder safety and survival is to operate with procedures based on sound Risk Management principles. Sound Risk Management prevents responders from being placed in situations where they don't belong. Specifically, in high risk situations where there is no viable life safety issue or in which conditions have deteriorated to the point where there is no value to their presence. These same studies demonstrate that the various methods to rescue responders caught in a 'Mayday' situation, vary in their degree of effectiveness. In order of proven effectiveness, these methods include:

1. **Prevention** – The most effective way to protect firefighters is through prevention. Prevention is achieved through effective training of firefighters and officers, by mitigating hazards prior to assign firefighters to hazard assignments (e.g. transitional attack, controlling fire flow), or by utilizing the rules of engagement and situational awareness to ensure personnel are not unnecessarily exposed to risk.



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2. **Team Integrity** – Anytime a firefighter enters a hazardous environment, they must do so in a team of at least two personnel, with a designated team leader. Team integrity means that firefighters operate in partnership so they can directly account for each other's welfare. In the event of a "Mayday" situation, working in a team provides the firefighter in peril with direct access to a partner who can; provide help, call for help, or go get help.
3. **Self Rescue** – When able, the ability to self extricate from a position of peril is the most natural form of rescue. A trapped firefighter is highly motivated to self mitigate their situation to survive.
4. **Back-up Teams** – Back-up teams, offensively positioned protecting the means of egress and monitoring conditions, in the vicinity of teams operating in areas with a high level of risk. A back-up team is the most familiar with the other team's location, situation, and the hazards they are exposed to. A back-up team's placement also positions them to better recognize a potential or developing "Mayday" situation, enabling them to prevent the fire firefighter emergency or to immediately intervene.
5. **Adjacent Teams** – When a team declares a "Mayday", the rescue efforts initiated by other teams operating in close proximity are nearly as effective as what a back-up team can provide. Adjacent teams may be re-assigned to assist with rescue efforts, if their current assignment is not necessary to stabilize the incident or protect the rescue effort.
6. **Stand-by & Rapid Intervention Teams** – Used to provide for the initial response to a fire fighter emergency. These teams are utilized to locate the downed firefighter, provide emergency air supply, and initiate rescue efforts. In situations where the downed firefighter cannot be quickly removed from the IDLH, it is likely that multiple teams will be needed to reinforce RIT and extricate the firefighter.

## 2.0 Preparation

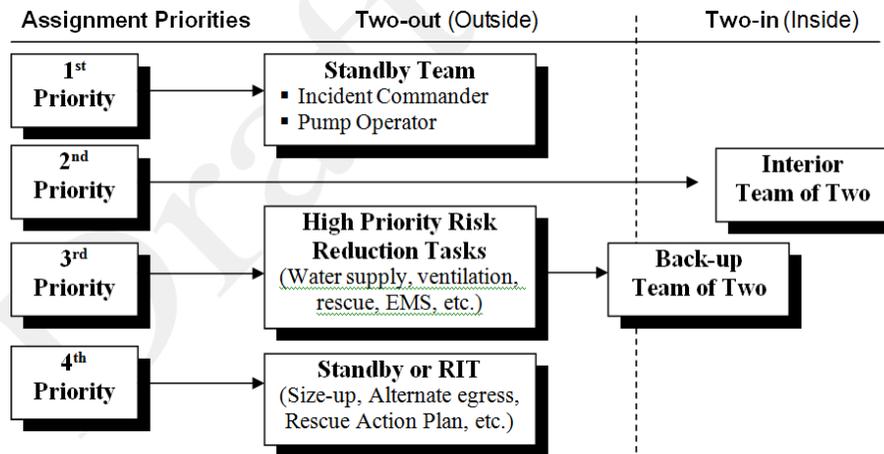
The Incident Commander is ultimately responsible for the incident's outcome, including the safety of all responders operating at the scene. The Incident Commander must maintain a constant balance between the need to perform critical tasks to mitigate the incident and providing for the personal safety of responders performing those tasks. The Incident Commander, as well as Supervisors, must continually evaluate the risks to operating teams, anticipating and being prepared for a fire fighter emergency to occur at any time. The Incident Commander maintains this readiness by maintaining accountability, having an adequate command structure in place, and having firefighter safety teams established. The roles and responsibilities of firefighter safety teams are defined in the Risk Management section of the Kitsap County Incident Management Procedures. All of this must be in place prior to a fire ground emergency occurring.



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### Firefighter Safety Team Prioritization:

Maintaining Two-in/Two-out, through the assignment of Stand-by or RIT, is a requirement. Below are some illustrative examples of the various ways in which the Incident Commander can assign resources to balance firefighter safety team assignments with incident mitigation, and specifically civilian life safety.



Following this order of priority and the Rules of Engagement, an **example** of typical assignments for an Offensive with Primary Search (ie. Unknown if Occupied) fire may be:

**1<sup>st</sup> Team of Two:** Will be the Incident Commander and Pump Operator, who will also serve as the initial Stand-by Team (SCBA in stand-by position).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Team of Two:** Will be assigned Confine and Extinguish and enter the building

**3<sup>rd</sup> Team of Two:** Will be assigned Back-Up, with the primary purpose of protecting the means of egress and maintaining situational awareness for the team assigned to Confine and Extinguish. Or assigned to handle any critical support functions (eg water supply) that most effectively provides for firefighter safety.

**4<sup>th</sup> Team of Two:** May be assigned as the Rapid Intervention Team or to Stand-by, relieving the Incident Commander and pump operator from this responsibility.

**5<sup>th</sup> Team of Two:** Assigned to Primary Search as a lower priority life safety assignment, based on the unknown if occupied status of the building.

For incidents with a critical life safety situation, the Incident Commander may decide to delay replacing the initial stand-by team and assign crews to the life safety situation. **Example**, of an Offensive fire with 'Search and Rescue' (ie. high likelihood of a viable victim):



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**1<sup>st</sup> Team of Two:** Will be the Incident Commander and Pump Operator, who will also serve as the initial Stand-by Team (ie. SCBA in stand-by position). The two in/one out exemption may be made only in the event of a known imminent and viable life safety issue.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Team of Two:** May be assigned Confine and Extinguish and enter the building confining the fire to protect the victim(s).

**3<sup>rd</sup> Team of Two:** May be assigned to Search and Rescue

**4<sup>th</sup> Team of Two:** May be assigned to Back-Up, or alternatively as the Rapid Intervention Team or Stand-by, relieving the Incident Commander and pump operator from this responsibility.

**Note;** *The primary change is that the assignment of the 3<sup>rd</sup> team varies based on the life safety profile of the incident. Following the rules of engagement responders are placed in a position of higher risk (ie. without a back-up team and without a dedicated RIT), based on the benefit of potentially saving a life.*

**Available Resources:** In addition to Firefighter safety teams, the Incident Commander should ensure that the resources are on scene, or have been requested, to deal with anticipated or potential changes to the incident. This tactical reserve of resources is critical to support or replace firefighter safety teams deployed to assist a downed firefighter. Additionally, the command structure must be in place and prepared to handle a fire ground emergency. An Incident Commander or Division/Group supervisor operating at their maximum span of control or without an assigned Safety Officer will be less capable of effectively managing a 'Mayday' situation.

**Safety Officer:** The Safety Officer not only plays a critical role in preventing firefighter emergencies, but also in preparing for the 'Mayday'. The Safety Officer should not only ensure that accountability is being maintained, but also be aware of the location of teams assigned in the Hazard area. The Safety Officer and Rapid Intervention Team Leader/Group Supervisor should communicate anticipated hazards and rescue plans. The Safety Officer should also be prepared to be reassigned as the RIT Group Supervisor and to manage the 'Mayday', if assigned by the Incident Commander in response to a firefighter emergency.



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### 3.0 Receiving the Mayday Call:

Despite proper risk management, a fire fighter emergency can occur at any moment, and the Incident Commander and/or supervisors must be prepared to receive the 'Mayday' call. It is critical to firefighter safety that the first 'Mayday' call is received and acknowledged. The 'Mayday' should be received and immediately acknowledged by the Incident Commander. If the 'Mayday' call is not immediately acknowledged by the Incident Commander (eg. 'Mayday' firefighter transmits on a tactical or ground frequency not being monitored by the Incident Commander), then the Division/Group Supervisor responsible for the 'Mayday' team shall acknowledge the 'Mayday'. If neither of these individuals acknowledge the 'Mayday' call, the Incident Safety Officer will acknowledge the call for help. Whoever acknowledges the 'Mayday' call, must ensure that the information is communicated to the Incident Commander.

**No 'Mayday' Call  
will go  
unacknowledged**

**The Mayday Call:** A 'Mayday' call is a call for help, it is used to communicate that an emergency responder is in peril. Firefighters are responsible for transmitting a 'Mayday' call whenever; a firefighter's life could be in peril, they cannot escape the hazard zone safely, or any 'Mayday' parameter is met. Doing so is not optional.

The 'Mayday' call can be made by the firefighter experiencing the emergency or it may be made by their partner/team leader. The 'Mayday' call is intended to adequately communicate enough information to allow the Incident Commander to respond to the emergency. The 'Mayday' call should be communicated in the **who / where / what** format. Considering that the firefighter calling a 'Mayday' may be under extreme distress, announcing that a 'Mayday' situation is occurring and who is in need of help is most critical. With that information, and appropriate accountability in place, the Incident Commander will be able to respond to the 'Mayday' call.

**'Mayday';** The call for help will start by repeating 'Mayday' three times over the radio:

*"Mayday, Mayday, Mayday"*

**'Who';** The firefighter will then announce who they are:

*"E81, Firefighter Keir"*

**'Where';** The firefighter will then announce where they are located:

*"On the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in a bedroom"*

**'What';** The firefighter will then announce what their emergency situation is:

*"I'm lost and can't find my team"*

The firefighter should communicate the Mayday in one transmission, such as:

*"Mayday, Mayday, Mayday, E81 Firefighter Keir, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the bedroom"  
I'm lost and can't find my team"*

The Incident Commander should record the 'Mayday' information on the 'Mayday' incident action plan template, utilizing the template as a guide to ensure they initiate a systematic process in managing the fire ground emergency.



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**Identifying the ‘Mayday’ Firefighter:** Determining which firefighter is making the ‘Mayday’ call is critical to implementing an effective response to the firefighter emergency. In the event the firefighter is unable to communicate effectively, the Incident Commander may be required to manage the process of determining the ‘Mayday’ caller’s identity. This can be done through a ‘Roll Call’ or requesting Cencom to identify the PPT-ID of the ‘Mayday’ caller’s radio. The Incident Commander may have to communicate with Division/Groups to determine the ‘Mayday’ firefighter’s task and location.

**Acknowledging the ‘Mayday’:** Upon receipt of the ‘Mayday’, the Incident Commander will acknowledge and repeat the ‘Mayday’ information. This transmission ensures the ‘Mayday’ firefighter knows that their communication was successful so they can initiate self-survival techniques, without wasting time attempting additional communications. The acknowledgement also ensures that on scene personnel know that the ‘Mayday’ was both heard and is being responded to by the Incident Commander. This also communicates the ‘Mayday’ situation to all personnel on scene and that the Incident Commander has begun managing the ‘Mayday’. This acknowledgement should sound like:

*“E81 FF Keir from Front St. Command, I acknowledge your ‘Mayday’. You are lost on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and separated from your crew, you are in a bathroom”*

If the ‘Mayday’ call is incomplete, the Incident Commander should request critical information from the firefighter or give initial self-survival instructions. This additional communication should be done with consideration for the extreme stress that the firefighter is under and the necessity to quickly begin managing the response to the ‘Mayday’. Examples:

*“Engine 81 Firefighter Keir from Front St. Command, I acknowledge your ‘Mayday’. You are lost on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and separated from your crew, you are in a bedroom. Activate your PASS device”*

*“ E81 FF Keir from Division Alpha, I acknowledge your ‘Mayday’, repeat your location and what is your emergency?”*

**Emergency Traffic:** A ‘Mayday’ call automatically triggers personnel on scene to follow emergency traffic radio discipline, eliminating the necessity for the Incident Commander to formally change to Emergency Traffic through Cencom. If the Incident Commander is unable to receive or acknowledge the ‘Mayday’ due to excessive radio traffic, they may request Cencom to initiate ‘Emergency Traffic’, which can be performed on all fire and ground frequencies. Cencom’s announcement of Emergency Traffic and initiation of the Emergency Traffic tone will assist in gaining control of communications. However, it must be weighed with the potential that the request and Cencom’s emergency traffic announcement may cover attempts by the firefighter to transmit ‘Mayday’ information.

**‘Mayday’ Team Status:** A component of receiving the ‘Mayday’, and understanding the scope of the situation, is to determine the status of the ‘Mayday’ firefighter’s team. After acknowledging the ‘Mayday’, the Incident Commander should obtain the status of the other team members, if it is not understood from the original ‘Mayday’ call. How this is achieved will depend upon the nature of the fire ground emergency. Obtaining the status of the entire team will provide critical information to the Supervisor, specifically; whether there are multiple firefighters experiencing an emergency or if the team is able to provide immediate assistance to the firefighter.



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Example;

“E81 Lt. Jones from Division Alpha, I have a ‘Mayday’ call from E81 FF Keir, what is your status and are you with FF Keir?”

In this example Lt. Jones is either in the best position to locate and assist FF Keir or is also lost and experiencing a fire ground emergency. The receipt of the ‘Mayday’ is not complete until the status of the team is understood. This should not significantly delay reaction to the ‘Mayday’, a lack of response to the status request should be considered an indication that the other team members are experiencing an emergency as well.

### Communicating the ‘Mayday’ Situation

Once the ‘Mayday’ has been received and acknowledged, the ‘Mayday’ situation will be announced. During this communication the Incident Commander will clearly identify who is managing the ‘Mayday’.

In addition to making the appropriate command positions aware of the ‘Mayday’, this communication is intended to ensure that all personnel on scene are aware that a ‘Mayday’ is underway, and that the ‘Mayday’ is being managed. Absent this communication, personnel are much more likely to begin freelancing, potentially abandoning assignments critical to stabilizing the incident. Examples of ‘Mayday’ situation communication:

#### Division reporting to I.C.

**Division Alpha;** “Front Street Command from Division Alpha; We have a ‘Mayday’ from E81, both FF Keir and Lt Jones are lost on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor”

**Incident Command;** “Division Alpha from Front Street Command; received we have a ‘Mayday’ E81 FF Keir and Lt Jones lost on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

#### Incident Command announcing the Mayday;

**Incident Command:** ‘All Units from Front Street Command , We have a ‘Mayday’, E81 FF Keir and Lt. Jones lost on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Break; Safety report to the command post.”

## 4.0 Risk / Benefit Analysis

Prior to assigning teams to rescue the ‘Mayday’ firefighter, the Incident Commander must make one of the most difficult decisions possible, whether or not to place additional firefighters in danger to save a downed firefighter. Immediately upon receiving the ‘Mayday’ call the Incident commander must re-evaluate the incident and update the Incident Action Plan based on the new life safety issue. This evaluation does not require a complete re-size up of the incident prior to initiating rescue efforts, however it is critical that the Incident Commander consider the risk and viability of a rescue in determining how the ‘Mayday’ will be managed. This can be facilitated by the Incident Safety Officer, if assigned, beginning a re-evaluation of incident conditions upon hearing the initial ‘Mayday’ call, allowing the assessment to be made concurrently with the ‘Mayday’ communications.

In the worst case the Incident Commander may be forced to decide if they are going to place additional personnel into a position of extreme risk or abandon the possibility to save the downed firefighter, but this is a decision they must be prepared to make. This evaluation must also be repeated, and it will likely be the Safety Officer who is responsible constantly re-evaluating incident conditions. The Safety Officer must be prepared and capable of both determining and



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taking the initiative of informing the Incident Commander when the level of risk is no longer acceptable.

### 5.0 Managing the Mayday

A fire ground emergency requires the same Incident Management procedures as any other incident. The Incident Commander must update the Incident Action Plan based on the life safety issue, and implement that plan in a decisive manner. This updated Incident Action Plan has to account for the management of the 'Mayday' situation. Managing the 'Mayday' specifically refers to:

- Communicating with the 'Mayday' firefighter / team
- Supervising the teams directly assigned to rescue/assist the 'Mayday' firefighter / team.
- Coordinating the self-survival action of the 'Mayday' firefighter with those of the rescue team(s)
- Coordinating the firefighter rescue with the ongoing incident management, specifically the incident stabilization necessary to protect the 'Mayday' firefighter

The effective management of the 'Mayday' will require actions to be taken specific to the roles of the; Incident Commander, the Safety Officer, and the individual managing the 'Mayday'. On smaller incidents the Incident Commander may retain responsibility for all three of these roles. However, on larger incidents it will be difficult for one individual to effectively perform these distinct functions. Who is best able to manage the 'Mayday' will be dependent upon the size and complexity of both the incident and the rescue efforts. Generally, the Incident Commander will initially retain the responsibility for managing the 'Mayday'. Based on the incident needs, the Incident Commander may choose to assign management of the 'Mayday' to another position (for example a Division Supervisor or Rescue Branch Director), announcing that designation. In the event that management of the 'Mayday' is assigned, adequate resources shall be provided to maintain accomplishment of strategic objectives as defined by the Incident Commander.

Ideally, a Command Officer will assign a **RIT** Group supervisor, focused solely on managing the 'Mayday' without compromising ongoing incident management functions. It will be critical that the RIT Group Supervisor communicate effectively with the Division/Group Supervisor, if established, who will have direct knowledge of the 'Mayday' team's situation and be able to quickly re-assign adjacent teams to assist the 'Mayday' firefighter / team.

Utilizing the order of effectiveness in mitigating the fire ground emergency, the individual managing the 'Mayday' will:

- Communicating with the 'Mayday's firefighter's partner/team and coordinating their efforts to locate, evaluate, and/or assist the 'Mayday' firefighter
- Account for the 'Mayday' firefighter's self-survival action, or provide direction to the 'Mayday' firefighter to assist in their rescue (eg. PASS activation, air conservation)
- Supervising the Back-up or Adjacent teams re-assigned to rescue/assist the 'Mayday' firefighter / team.
- Supervising the RIT or Stand-by team activate to locate, evaluate, provide air, and begin removal of the downed firefighter



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These firefighter rescue actions must be closely coordinated with ongoing Incident Stabilization. Due to the complexity and stress of a fire ground emergency, basic incident management principles such as Risk Management, span of control, accountability, and radio discipline become increasingly important and should not be abandoned due to the emotional stress of the situation. The individual managing the 'Mayday' should communicate their anticipated resource needs, allowing the Incident Commander to ensure adequate resources are available or requested to handle the firefighter rescue and medical care, as well as ongoing operations.

Consistent with the Incident Command System, the individual managing the 'Mayday' may be elevated to the level of a Branch Director to allow the autonomy to establish tactical assignments and to establish groups (eg. Rescue group, Protection Group, Medical Group) on large scale or highly complex firefighter emergencies.

### 6.0 Implementing the Rescue:

The roles of teams and individual firefighters in responding to a firefighter emergency are covered in detail in the Kitsap County 'Surviving the Firefighter Emergency' procedures. Incident Commanders must be familiar with these roles and responsibilities to allow them to better manage the 'Mayday'.

**Self Survival:** Firefighters should be well trained with self-survival techniques in the event of a fire ground emergency, as all personnel are trained to implement the 'GRABLIVES' mnemonic. The supervisor managing the 'Mayday' should expect the firefighter to activate their PASS device or make noise, monitor and conserve their air supply, and to attempt self rescue. However, the firefighter may need the supervisor to remind them of these basic survival techniques. The Supervisor will also assist the firefighter by informing them of the actions that are being taken to locate and/or assist them, and ensure that the firefighter's action do not put them in further danger. It is critical that the Supervisor coordinate the self survival actions with that of the safety teams.

**Team/Partner Assistance:** If the fire ground emergency involves only one firefighter, the remaining team members provide them the best chance of surviving the fire ground emergency. The Supervisor must determine not only if the remaining team is also experiencing an emergency, but if they are capable of assisting the 'Mayday' firefighter without putting themselves in a position of unreasonable risk. If they are capable, the Supervisor should utilize the remaining team members to locate and evaluate the condition of the Mayday firefighter. This information is critical to the Supervisor in developing a plan for rescuing the firefighter, and to ensure that RIT is properly equipped to assist the 'Mayday' firefighter. The Supervisor must ensure that the team monitors their own air and maintains situational awareness, avoiding tunnel vision on assisting the downed firefighter.

**Back-up and Adjacent Teams:** The Incident Commander has the ability to re-assign adjacent crews to assist the 'Mayday' firefighter, consistent with the Incident Objectives. This must be done in a controlled manner, one that does not put the crews in further jeopardy by abandoning critical incident stabilizing activities (Confine & Extinguishment). Following the firefighter safety team prioritization, most often a Back-up team will be pre-positioned and most capable of immediately assisting the firefighter experiencing the fire ground emergency. If the Back-up team is re-assigned to assist or rescue the downed firefighter, the Back-up team assignment should be assigned to another crew as soon as possible. Upon re-assignment to rescue the downed firefighter, the supervision of these teams will transfer to the individual managing the 'Mayday'.



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**RIT Deployment:** While other teams may be re-assigned to assist with the fire ground emergency, the Rapid Intervention Team is the only team dedicated to preparing for and responding to a fire ground emergency. Following the acknowledgement of the “Mayday” the Incident Commander will immediately alert the Rapid Intervention Team. This allows them to prepare to deploy based on the actual ‘Mayday’ situation.

- The Rapid Intervention Team’s prioritized objectives are:
  1. Search for and locate the firefighter(s) in peril
  2. Evaluate the firefighter’s condition and rescue requirement

***Perform rapid removal if capable, or if not;***

3. Provide for emergency air management needs
4. Protect the firefighter from further harm
5. Develop and communicate a plan to remove the firefighter
6. Remove the firefighter(s) in peril to a safe area

However, the individual managing the ‘Mayday’ must evaluate the fire ground emergency and purposefully use the Rapid Intervention Team in the most effective manner possible.

**Stand-by Team:** The purpose of the Stand-by team is to be prepared to assist firefighters assigned within the IDLH environment in the event of a fire ground emergency. When the decision is made to deploy the Stand-by team to rescue a firefighter, their actions are no different than that of a rapid intervention team other than that they will have to stop their ancillary tasks prior to assembling to perform the rescue. However, the Incident Commander should consider the nature of the fire ground emergency and utilize the Stand-by team in the manner that most effectively provides for the safety of the ‘Mayday’ team. That may include continuing their assigned activities or perform other assignments (eg. Fire control) to stabilize the incident until additional personnel are on scene to assist the ‘Mayday’ team.

**Additional Teams to Support RIT:** Managing the ‘Mayday’ requires that individual to not only assign resources to the problem, but to coordinate their efforts and to anticipate what resources will be needed to support them. Specifically, a two to four person Rapid Intervention Team is unlikely to be able to remove a firefighter from a building without assistance. The Incident Commander should ensure that adequate additional teams are assembled to support or replace the initial rapid intervention team. This includes the necessity to have a medical team prepared to care for the ‘Mayday’ firefighter(s) once they are removed from the IDLH.

### 7.0 Preparedness for Additional Maydays:

A fire ground emergency presents an imminent life safety situation, one for which personnel will assume the greatest amount of risk. Inherent with taking this level of risk, there is a greater chance of additional fire fighter emergencies. The Incident Commander must be prepared for additional ‘Mayday’ calls from those assigned to rescue or support the rescue of the ‘Mayday’ team.



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Therefore, the Incident Commander must replace the activated Rapid Intervention Team as soon as possible. Supervisors must continue to maintain accountability of all crews assigned to the IDLH environment. Additionally, the Incident Commander must maintain situational awareness and continuously weigh the risk/benefit of continuing rescue efforts.

### 8.0 Returning to normal operations

Upon mitigation of the fire ground emergency, the Incident Commander will be responsible for returning to normal operations. Prior to returning to normal operations, including cancelling emergency traffic, the Incident Commander should;

- Conduct a Roll Call of all personnel on scene
- Announce the conclusion of the 'Mayday' and return to normal operations
- Restate the Incident; Strategy, Objectives, Hazards, and Assignments

*Example: "All Units from Sunset Command; PAR complete with all units accounted for, the 'Mayday' is concluded, we are returning to normal operations. We are now Offensive with primary search, continuing fire attack on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor A/B side and primary search of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor"*

These steps should be taken for every 'Mayday' call, even those that are quickly resolved. However, this not required for accidental 'EMER' activations which are appropriately cleared. As with all incidents the Incident Commander must ensure that appropriate incident rehabilitation is provided.

Fire ground emergencies which results in the serious injury or death of a fire fighter, will require the Incident Commander to provide for or facilitate:

- Medical care for the injured firefighter(s)
- Notification of the Department's command staff (Chief, Health and Safety Officer)
- Debriefing and psychological support of personnel
- Notification of Washington State Labor and Industries (1-800-423-7233)
- Securing the scene and any equipment (PPE) involved in the incident



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<b>Managing the Mayday</b>		
<b>Receiving the Mayday</b>	<b>Mayday Information</b>	
	<b>Mayday # 1</b>	<b>Mayday #2</b>
<p><b>Acknowledge Mayday with:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “ ___ from Command, acknowledging your ‘Mayday’</li> <li>• <b>Alert RIT</b></li> <li>• <b>Obtain Additional Mayday Information</b> / Identify the ‘Mayday’ Firefighter (Roll Call / PPT-ID)</li> <li>• <b>Obtain status of the Mayday firefighter’s team</b></li> <li>• <b>Communicate the Mayday status and Designate ‘Mayday’ Manager</b></li> <li>• <b>Initiate Emergency Traffic</b></li> </ul>	<p>Who:</p> <p>Where:</p> <p>What:</p> <p>Time:</p> <p>Frequency:</p> <p>Safety Teams Assigned:</p>	<p>Who:</p> <p>Where:</p> <p>What:</p> <p>Time:</p> <p>Frequency:</p> <p>Safety Teams Assigned:</p>
<p><b>Perform Risk / Benefit Analysis Prior updating Incident Action Plan</b></p>		
‘Mayday’	Incident Commander	Safety Officer



# Kitsap County Incident Management Procedures

KCIMP  
Appendix A

## Managing the Firefighter Emergency

<p><b>Communicate the Rescue Plan to all personnel</b></p> <p><b>Communicate with Downed Firefighter (direct and coordinate self-rescue)</b></p> <p><b>Supervise Teams RIT and Teams re-assigned to the firefighter rescue:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back-up</li> <li>• Adjacent Teams</li> </ul> <p><b>Coordinate Ongoing Operations to Support Firefighter Rescue</b></p> <p><b>Provide for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional teams to Support RIT</li> <li>• Medical Care</li> </ul> <p><b>Prepare for Additional Maydays</b></p>	<p><b>Manage Roll Call, or PPT-ID Identification of 'Mayday' caller (prn)</b></p> <p><b>Designate Mayday Manager</b></p> <p><b>Coordinate Ongoing Operations to Support the Firefighter Rescue (IAP)</b></p> <p><b>Provide for Supervising:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Division/Group</li> <li>• Safety Officer</li> </ul> <p><b>Ground Frequencies, consider moving ongoing operations off of the 'Mayday' frequency</b></p>	<p><b>Re-evaluate conditions and perform Risk / Benefit Analysis</b></p> <p><b>Assist Incident Commander and 'Mayday' Manager in maintaining situational awareness</b></p> <p><b>Ensure Personnel and Tactical Accountability is maintained</b></p> <p><b>Ensure Incident Rehabilitation is provided for</b></p>
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