

<p style="text-align: center;">DAVIE COUNTY, NC FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES</p>	REVISION DATE 6/5/2018
<p style="text-align: center;">SUB DOCUMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL</p>	ADMIN PAGE 1 OF 4
<p style="text-align: right;">DCFM #</p>	500-005

1. OBJECTIVE

- 1.1. To make personnel aware of techniques for the Firefighter to survive if they become lost or trapped in a building. The following are basic guidelines for firefighters to follow, if they become lost or trapped in a building, to assist in surviving an incident.
- 1.2. Firefighting is inherently a dangerous job. The nature of this job places the Firefighter at risk of becoming lost or trapped. The environment provides only for a narrow window of opportunity for the Firefighter to survive. This is dependent on the mix of predictable self-survival actions by the lost/trapped Firefighter and the Incident Commander of the incident.

2. BASIC SELF-SURVIVAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1. Once a Firefighter is lost or trapped, there is a narrow window of survivability. This is due mainly to the limited air provided with a Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and approaching fire.
- 2.2. To increase the survivability of firefighters, a number of things should be considered:
 - 2.2.1. Individual firefighters must not delay reporting to command if they become lost, trapped or in need of assistance.
 - 2.2.2. Company officers must not delay reporting of lost or unaccounted for firefighters.
 - 2.2.3. Command and sector officers must always assume that a missing Firefighter is lost until they are accounted for.
 - 2.2.4. Command must restructure the strategy and action plan to include a priority search and rescue effort.

2.3. *THE FIREFIGHTER RESPONSIBILITY*

- 2.3.1. There are certain procedures to follow by all personnel. All crews entering the Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmosphere must work in crews of two at a minimum, have portable radios as part of the crew, be accounted for both being there and where they are, and work under the supervision of a Sector Officer or Command.

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<p style="text-align: center;">SUB DOCUMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL</p>	ADMIN PAGE 2 OF 4
<p style="text-align: right;">DCFM #</p>	500-005

3. SELF RESCUE TECHNIQUES

3.1. Each Firefighter should be trained in proper radio procedures, mask confidence, and techniques for self rescue. They shall call for help using the “May-Day”* as soon as they become lost or trapped.

3.2. Emergency/Mayday procedures

3.2.1. Prior to transmitting the MayDay, press the Orange Emergency Alert Button on the top of the radio or remote Mic. This emergency button should only be used for responders who are in distress and are in need of emergency assistance from additional resources.

3.2.2. There should not be a delay in a notification of distress and this should occur as soon as the Firefighter “THINKS” they are in trouble.

3.2.3. Anyone hearing a May-Day shall make sure the IC is aware a May-Day has been transmitted. Any member may use May-Day to report a lost Firefighter.

3.2.4. All mayday activations regardless of agency will be active and alerted on the 800 designated Mayday channel, which is monitored by DCC.

3.2.5. All Fire and EMS radios are programmed to be activated on the 800 Mayday channel and are designed to have a **keyed mic for 30 seconds**. It is assumed that if Fire or EMS has activated a Mayday they will be on a working incident, at which time a rescue team or RIT team will have been established and ready to assist.

3.2.6. DCC will notify:

- The Incident Commander
 - Any information advised by the unit declaring mayday
 - LUNAR: **Location, Unit, Name, Assignment, Resource** that are needed

3.2.6. Rescue operation (RIT) will switch to the mayday channel and establish communications with the unit in distress

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<p style="text-align: center;">SUB DOCUMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL</p>	ADMIN PAGE 3 OF 4
<p style="text-align: right;">DCFM #</p>	500-005

3.2.7. In the case of an accidental mayday activation of Davie will:

- Will advise the Fire or EMS unit over the mayday channel.

3.2.8. Repeated misuse of mayday activations will result in the Chief of the department notification. Further action can result in the radio ID being disabled on the state's VIPER radio system.

3.2.9. To reset an activated mayday, the orange mayday button must be pressed until the radio clears.

3.3. PASS ALARM

3.3.1. Use of the PASS can greatly assist in the rescue process.

3.3.2. Manual activation should be done as soon as the Firefighter becomes lost or trapped. The device must remain on until rescued. If the device interferes with communications in any way, the device should be turned off temporarily and reactivated upon completion of message.

3.4. CREW INTEGRITY

3.4.1. Crews shall stay together and assist each other. Crew members that stay together greatly enhance their chances of rescue for ALL being rescued. Crew members should stay with the hose line or (lifeline) and follow it out whenever possible. The hose line should always be treated as a lifeline.

3.5. SELF CONTROL & SELF AWARENESS

3.5.1. A conscious effort must be made to remain calm and control breathing. Unnecessary talking or physical activity must be avoided.

3.5.2. A lost Firefighter should always attempt to get out of the building by whatever means possible. Where doors, windows, or other means of egress is not available, firefighters should next attempt to reach an exterior wall. Once at the wall, they will be able to search for doorways, windows and hallways which generally lead to the outside. Rescuers will first search hallways, around walls and around windows and doors before sweeping large interior areas. For this reason, firefighters must avoid

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<p style="text-align: right;">DCFM #</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">500-005</p>

collapsing in the middle of open spaces. Getting to one of these areas will increase the chance of being rescued early. These actions also provide predictable activities to aid the rescuer. If an opening can't be found, the Firefighter should consider breaching the wall. Sheetrock walls can usually be breached in minutes.

- 3.5.3. Where a Firefighter cannot find a way out, they should seek areas of safe refuge away from the fire. Command and rescuers should be notified of the location by whatever means possible.
- 3.5.4. The Firefighter should assume a position that maximizes the PASS device sound such as horizontal in a prone position. This position should be taken near exterior walls, in doorways and hallways that maximize quick discovery by rescue crews. Firefighters should also use flashlights as visual aids for discovery by shining on ceilings and walls. Use of tools to tap on walls, floors and doors should also be attempted to assist the rescuer.