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|  | Hampton-Valley Forge Vol. Fire Dept. Standard Operating Guidelines | |
| | Subject: Rapid Intervention Team | SOG # 2-18 Initiated 01/01/2019 |
| | Approved: Fire Chief Chris Isaacs | Revised 01/01/2019 |

Hampton-Valley Forge Volunteer Fire Dept. Rapid Intervention Group (R.I.G.) and MAYDAY

1. Purpose of R.I.G.

- a. The purpose of this guideline is to provide the Incident Commander (IC) with an immediately available resource to initiate rescue operations in the event of a MAYDAY.
- b. A MAYDAY may consist of any of the following:
 - * Firefighter(s) lost, entangled, trapped, or pinned;
 - * Firefighter(s) have fallen through a roof or floor and cannot be accounted for or have become injured;
 - * Firefighter(s) caught in a flashover;
 - * Firefighter(s) SCBA malfunction and / or low air alert activates and cannot immediately find an exit; or
 - * Firefighter(s) believes the safety of a crew or a crew member may be at risk.
- c. The Incident Commander shall assign a R.I.G. on all Working Incidents.
- d. A firefighter who is not accounted for in a PAR after two attempts will be declared a MAYDAY.

2. Procedure for a Firefighter to Declare a MAYDAY

- a. Once a firefighter has recognized a MAYDAY situation they shall press their orange emergency identifier (EI) button located on their portable radio and verbally transmit "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY". Once Command has acknowledged your MAYDAY, inform Command of the MAYDAY immediately using the acronym **LUNAR** to advise:

L = Location and situation of MAYDAY

U = Unit number and the position your riding (E72-Lineman)
N = Name of firefighter
A = Air supply situation
R = Resources needed

Note: If you are unable to press your push to talk once your EI button has been activated your radio mic will be open for 10 seconds for you to transmit as much information as possible. Example: Firefighter presses the EI button on the portable radio and transmits “E-11 to Command, MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY, E-11’s crew is trapped on the second floor, quadrant B. This is Captain X, we are low on air and trapped under a collapsed roof.”

- b. Once you have declared your MAYDAY and Command acknowledges, then activate your P.A.S.S. alarm.
 - c. When an EI button is activated with no follow-up voice transmission, fireboard will notify the Incident Commander of the activation. Command will make one attempt to contact the firefighter verbally. If the firefighter does not acknowledge this attempt, the firefighter will be considered a MAYDAY.
3. When a MAYDAY occurs, the following procedures shall be adhered to;
- a. All units not assigned to the R.I.G. shall continue their assigned operation.
 - b. Complete radio silence will be adhered to until otherwise stated by the Incident Commander. All units except the Incident Commander, R.I.G., and firefighter(s) who declared MAYDAY will be switched to the next available tactical channel by the Incident Commander as to keep the communication line open on the channel the MAYDAY was transmitted over.
4. R.I.G Activation
- a. Upon deployment of a R.I.G. Fireboard will dispatch an additional alarm and an Advanced Life Support Unit to the incident.
5. Apparatus Positioning
- a. The engine company assigned to the R.I.G. shall lay a supply line from an independent hydrant to side “A” of the structure.
 - b. In the event an independent hydrant is not available the R.I.G. Engine Company shall position their apparatus out of the way and coordinate with the first or second due Engine Company with a water supply established for a hose line.
 - c. The special service assigned to the R.I.G. shall position their apparatus as close to the incident as possible for equipment retrieval.
6. Duties of the R.I.G.

- a. The R.I.G will take a position on Side “A” of the structure. In the event of a high rise the R.I.G. will take a position 1 floor below the fire floor. If the R.I.G. is positioned on the exterior, the R.I.G. must be outside the collapse zone.
- b. The R.I.G. must monitor all critical operational radio talk at the incident and must know the location of crews operating in/on the structure. The RIG officer should communicate to Command any need for additional units and/or special equipment to support the rapid intervention mission.
- c. All firefighters assigned to the RIG shall be dressed in full personnel protective equipment and should be ready to rapidly assist personnel engaged in firefighting.
- d. The R.I.G. may engage in activities that will assist to enhance safety on the fire ground, and can include placement of ladders, removal of security bars, opening of locked/blocked means of egress etc. R.I.G members will not become involved in operations that if abandoned would delay their deployment as the R.I.G. should a MAYDAY be declared.

7. Tools and Equipment

- a. The tools and equipment needed will vary due to differences in the types of buildings, location of the fire, and type of “MAYDAY” (lost, trapped, below/above grade, etc.). As a minimum the following tools shall be staged with the RIG;
 - i. Thermal Imaging Camera
 - ii. RIG Air Pack
 - iii. RIG Search Rope
 - iv. Set of Irons
 - v. Sledgehammer
 - vi. Hydra-Ram
 - vii. Wood Cutting Saw
 - viii. Metal Cutting Saw
 - ix. Stokes Basket
 - x. Wire Cutters
 - xi. Attic Ladder
 - xii. Hose Line
 - xiii. Life Line
 - xiv. Below Grade Rescue Kit
 - xv. All tools and equipment can be transported in the stokes basket.