


|   |   |                                    |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
|  | <b>JEFFERSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT<br/>OF EMERGENCY SERVICES</b><br>STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES | Initial:<br>09-05-2008<br>Revised: |
|   | SOP#: FIRE 3-14   |                                    |
|   | Subject: MAYDAY Policy  |                                    |

## MAYDAY POLICY

### A. PURPOSE

1. This policy presents the procedure by which dispatchers at the Jefferson County 9-1-1 center and firefighters in the field shall utilize when faced with a situation where immediate communications is necessary to protect life or prevent injury.
2. The intent is to move all radio traffic not involved in the immediate rescue efforts of the MAYDAY situation to an alternate channel. This policy is not intended to take the place of an individual departments MAYDAY or distress policy.

### B. PROCEDURE

1. The radio message "MAYDAY" is used by firefighters to report their status as being down, trapped, injured and needing rescued, disoriented or otherwise incapacitated at the scene of an incident.
2. Upon receiving the radio transmission, the Incident Commander will determine if the "MAYDAY" procedure should be initiated or an alternate course of action will be taken.
3. When the Incident Commander requests a "MAYDAY" procedure will be initiated, Jefferson County 9-1-1 will strike a warble tone on fire dispatch (A2) and the fire operations channel and announce:

*"Jefferson County, all units, MAYDAY in progress, all units switch to (frequency) for operations."*

4. At that time, all units with the exception of the firefighter transmitting the "MAYDAY", the Incident Commander and personnel directly involved in the rescue will cease transmissions and switch to an alternate frequency as assigned by the dispatcher.
5. The Incident Commander will attempt to identify the location, problem and needs of the "MAYDAY" transmitter as per his/her department policies and procedures.
6. When the firefighter has been rescued or the "MAYDAY" terminated, Jefferson County will announce the following on dispatch and involved channels:

*"Jefferson County, all units return to (frequency) for operations"*

### **C. GENERAL**

1. "MAYDAY" should not be confused with the term "emergency traffic only". The term "emergency traffic only" refers to important radio traffic for the 9-1-1 Center not associated with a firefighter's need of being rescued.

**"MAYDAY" shall have priority over "emergency traffic only".**

**JEFFERSON COUNTY 9-1-1 DOES NOT MONITOR SIMPLEX FIREGROUND CHANNELS**