Jackson Hole Fire/EMS
Operations Manual

Developed by: Brian Coe, Battalion Chief		Title:	**Survival and RIT Policy**
Approved by: Willy Watsabaugh, Chief		Division:	14
		Article:	5
		Revised:	07/02/12
		Pages:	4

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to identify the self-survival skills, Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) actions and Command decisions in the event of a Mayday situation. The immediate and well-organized rescue operation will be ensured through training and following all applicable laws and standards.

SECTION I – DEFINITIONS

Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) –consisting of at least a two-member crew that is immediately available to respond to requests for help from lost, trapped or incapacitated responders.

Two-In, Two-Out – entry of a crew into a hazardous atmosphere requires a minimum crew of two members outside of the hazardous atmosphere. *Exception: entry can be made by first arriving crew without Two-In, Two-Out (i.e. three-member crew) for a known life hazard or known rescue situation and immediate action could prevent the loss of life or serious injury.*

Emergency Evacuation – immediate and rapid movement of all members operating in a hazardous environment to a designated safety zone. Initiation of an emergency evacuation will be three blasts on an air horn and emergency radio traffic from an Incident Commander or Safety Officer on the Command frequency stating "Evacuate, Evacuate, Evacuate".

Immediately Dangerous to Live and Health (IDLH) - means an atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

Hazardous Atmosphere – an atmosphere that is hazardous or has the potential of containing a hazard requiring the use of a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

Mayday – term used only to report responders who are lost, trapped, or in a life-threatening condition.

CAN Report – information formatted as Conditions, Actions and Needs requested by and reported to group supervisor from crew leader.

PAR – Personal Accountability Report requested by and reported to the IC from members on scene as to their location and situation.

Emergency Traffic – term used to communicate any urgent or important message other than a lost or trapped responder.

SECTION II – RESCUER SURVIVAL

The best survival technique is prevention of a Mayday situation. Maintain the following:

- Situational Awareness (i.e. rapidly changing fire conditions, impending collapse, etc.)
- Continuity of crew members
- Orientation in low visibility conditions
- Air Management in accordance with the Air Management Policy

If you are in a situation where you, a crew member or another member operating in a hazardous atmosphere may be lost, trapped or in a life-threatening condition – Stay calm, pause and assess the problem.

The mnemonic GRAB LIVES will be utilized as a training aid to promote survival muscle memory.

G – Gauge (air remaining)
R – Radio Mayday
A – Activate PASS
B – Breathing (conserve air)

L – Stay Low
I – Illuminate (shine flashlight)
V – Volume (make noise)
E – Exit if possible
S – Shield airway (last resort respiratory protection)

SECTION III – CALLING THE MAYDAY

To the member calling Mayday, the IC and the members of the RIT crew, a Mayday transmission will be the most important radio transmission of their lives.

Call a Mayday Immediately if any of the following exist:

- Lost or Missing member
- SCBA malfunction or large loss of air
- Member seriously injured or incapacitated
- Any life-threatening condition that cannot be resolved within 30 seconds

A Mayday should be broadcasted on the assigned operational channel. The command channel, channel 1 or channel 16 are alternatives if the Mayday transmission is not copied by the IC.

Mayday traffic will consist of the following: "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday" and immediately follow with

Who – Name of individual calling Mayday and crew
What – Nature of Emergency
Where – Last known location

Continue to repeat the message until your radio transmission is acknowledged by the IC. The IC will give further instructions and request additional information.

SECTION IV – RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM (RIT)

RIT will be established based on the Two-In, Two-Out requirement and as indicated by the IC.

- A RIT is a fully equipped crew (minimum of two responders) with appropriate protective clothing, SCBA's, portable radio, and equipment based on the conditions and hazards of the incident.
- RIT will assume a ready state to immediately react and respond to a Mayday.
- RIT will report to the Rescue Group Supervisor during the state of readiness and will report directly to the IC if RIT is initiated.
- Multiple RIT's may be required for an incident depending on the size and complexity of the incident.
- RIT members will refrain from other tactical functions. RIT should be reserved for immediate deployment when members are in a hazardous atmosphere.

Upon assignment of RIT, RIT group leader and crew should perform the following:

- Establish a dedicated tool drop area with a minimum of the following tools:
  - ✓ RIT bag – air supply and equipment checked for operational readiness
  - ✓ Portable radio
  - ✓ Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC)
  - ✓ Forcible entry tools
  - ✓ Portable hand lights
  - ✓ Optional – Specialized rescue equipment
- Identify and deploy a dedicated hoseline with a separate water supply if practical.
- Complete a 360 Size-up of the involved structure/area to determine the following:
  - ✓ Access and egress points. Ladders may be required for elevated access or egress.
  - ✓ Specialized equipment that may be required for rescue operations.
  - ✓ Fire and structural conditions that would hinder rescue operations.
  - ✓ Protection systems and other factors that will aid rescue operations.
  - ✓ Current and anticipated fire behavior.
- Continue to monitor Command and Tactical frequencies for location of interior crews.
- Remain in readiness until the IC declares the incident under control and there is not longer a hazardous atmosphere.

RIT should consider the following when searching for missing/lost responders:

- Develop information of responder's possible location – speak with crewmembers, follow hoseline, identify landmarks.
- Implement a search and rescue plan.
- Identify immediate hazards that could endanger RIT members.
- Assign one member of RIT crew to listen for and locate sounds generated by responder – PASS, portable radio, or noises generated by the responder.
- Identify fans, lights or other equipment that may have been used by missing responders.

RIT should consider the following when the missing responders have been located:

- Assess immediate hazards in the area and develop an emergency action plan – Evacuation or Shelter-In-Place based upon condition of victim and resources needed for evacuation.
- Victim status – level of consciousness, ability to assist with rescue, breathing, air supply, injuries, entrapment, etc.

- Identify and mitigate life-threatening conditions. If the victim is not breathing, immediately extricate from the hazardous area as replacing the air supply will not increase chances of survival.
- Request additional resources if needed
- Identify egress and escape routes.

SECTION V – COMMAND RESPONSIBILITIES

The IC has the initial responsibility of ensuring RIT is established, PAR's are conducted in accordance with the Air Management Policy and will have the following responsibilities after a Mayday is called or there is a lost responder:

- Take control of RIT and initiate a RIT response to the last known location of the responder through the most effective access point.
- Perform a PAR for all crews operating in the hazards atmosphere.
- Initiate next greater alarm to include a minimum of one additional engine, rescue and medic unit.
- Establish an Operations Section Chief and necessary divisions (if not already established) to ensure command and control of crews.
- Operations should focus on incident stabilization (i.e. establishing protection for rescue operations, additional ventilation, etc.) and implementing medical/triage through a Medical Group Supervisor.
- Establish a New RIT to back up crews involved in rescue operations. Two responders for each rescuer should be on standby outside the entry point(s).
- Move personnel that are not directly involved in rescue operations to a different fire ground radio channel. This will allow the person involved in the Mayday event and rescuers to have radio priority.
- Ensure Dispatch is monitoring all radio frequencies for emergency transmissions.
- Withdraw uninvolved crews from affected area.
- Adjust the Incident Action Plan.
- When the rescue operations are complete, IC will declare the emergency situation over and return to normal operations.
- Initiate Critical Incident Stress Management for all members on scene.

SECTION VI – TRAINING

Mayday training will take place semi-annually at the company/station level. Each individual will practice calling a Mayday over the radio with gloves on and vision restricted. The individual will be asked to turn on the radio, select an assigned channel, push the talk button, and verbally call a Mayday.

Repeat the drill in full turnout gear and SCBA. Try to accomplish the tasks in an unusual situation or an area of limited mobility.

Company officers should use these drill times to review this policy and reinforce when an individual should call a Mayday. Think of specific situation to discuss – "Would you call a Mayday if ….?" etc.

Mayday scenarios will be incorporated into drills held by the Training Division annually.