

Mayday, Withdraw and Abandon **Procedures**

January 2008

SOG Description – To describe and define procedures to be used during emergency withdraw and abandonment of unsafe structures. This procedure shall apply to all emergency and training operations when the need arises.

Definitions:

Evacuate - Term applies ONLY to the procedure of requiring citizens to leave a structure or area.

Mayday - Term applies ONLY to emergency calls from downed or trapped firefighters. Term should be stated three (3) times and should be used in the following situations:

- A firefighter is unconscious or suffers a life threatening injury.
- A division or group supervisor, fire officer, or team leader becomes aware that a member or team under their supervision is missing.
- Member becomes trapped or lost.

Withdraw – Term applies ONLY to the procedure of requiring firefighters to leave a structure or area bringing their equipment with them.

Abandon – Term applies ONLY to the procedure of requiring firefighters to leave a structure or area immediately. Drop everything and get out.

Withdraw and Abandonment Procedure –

Emergency withdrawals and abandons will be called by the incident commander at the recommendation of any officer or firefighter on the emergency scene. The IC will clearly state on the fire ground frequency, “**All units stand by for emergency traffic, Withdraw, Withdraw, Withdraw**” or “**All units stand by for emergency traffic, Abandon, Abandon, Abandon.**” In the event of an abandon, the IC will then order the engineer of the closest engine to sound the emergency air horn. The horn will be three (3) blasts, each being two (2) seconds in duration with a one (1) second pause in between each blast. If warranted by factors such as building size, sound levels, or geography, the IC may require the engineer to transmit the horn blasts over the fire ground frequency by keying a hand held radio microphone near the horn for not more than fifteen (15) seconds. At this time the IC will initiate a PAR Report

Par Report Procedure –

Once the PAR Report has been initiated, the IC will ask all division or group supervisors, fire officers, and team leaders to account for their personnel. This will be done on the fire ground frequency. When this is complete, the IC will advise dispatch to time stamp a completed PAR Report.

Mayday Procedure –

In the event of a firefighter calling a mayday, the following information will need to be transmitted by the trapped firefighter or asked for by the IC:

Location

Unit

Name

Air

Resources needed for a rescue

The downed firefighter will wait to activate their PASS Device until after the Mayday transmission is complete.