



SULLIVAN COUNTY BUREAU OF FIRE

Mayday Policy & Procedure Emergency Evacuation Policy & Procedure

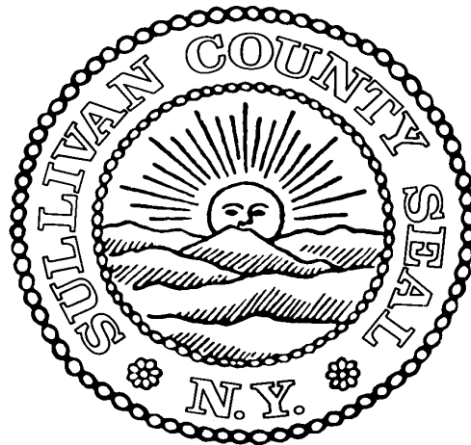


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1) **Purpose**

- A. The purpose of this policy is to provide a uniform countywide procedure for both mayday situations and emergency evacuation situations and to clearly define the differences between both applications.
- B. It is required that all firefighters know and understand these procedures and the criteria herein as to fully understand their different applications.

2) **Mayday Description**

- A. A Mayday code is transmitted when a firefighter(s) is in **imminent** danger (life threatening situation). eg: trapped, disorientated, injured, etc. **Mayday is not an emergency evacuation call! Air horns do not initiate a mayday!** A mayday is communicated by radio and/or person to person over the radio.
- B. It is imperative that all firefighters know and understand the procedure, as it will be the sole method for firefighters who find themselves or others in a life-threatening situation to communicate such an emergency at any incident.
- C. The following situations will initiate a mayday call:
 - Trapped
 - Entanglement
 - Cut off by fire
 - Cut off by collapse
 - Through the floor
 - Pinned
 - SCBA failure
 - Firefighter down
 - Lost/Disoriented
 - Pass Device Activation

3) **Mayday Procedure**

A. The Mayday procedure for the fire service of Sullivan County will be as follows:

- (1) The signal for a **MAYDAY** situation is the verbal transmission of **“MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY” (3 times)**
 - (2) The **“Mayday”** transmission shall continue until acknowledged. It should be reported to the Incident Commander immediately.
 - (3) The Communications Dispatcher, upon hearing a **“Mayday”** call, shall advise all other radio traffic to stay clear of the channel on which the **“Mayday”** was called.(Radio silence)
 - (4) Any department personnel that are aware of a missing individual or crew should also declare a **“Mayday”**.
 - (5) Individuals who declare a **“Mayday”** should, if possible, provide approximate location by floor or last known location to assist with finding them. Also, they should provide as much information as to their circumstances as possible.
 - (6) Personnel who become trapped or disoriented should execute all necessary self-rescue activities to assist in their own rescue.
 - (7) Upon receipt of the **“Mayday”**, the incident commander shall immediately consult with the FAST/RIT leader and assign the rescue to that team, if one is available on the scene. In the event a FAST/RIT is not available, all interior firefighters not engaged in other critical assignments will be utilized for the rescue effort.
 - (8) All fire suppression activities shall continue unless ordered to cease by the incident commander.
 - (9) All company officers shall provide a Personnel Accountability Roster to the Incident Commander, if available.
- 4) All **“Mayday”** activities will continue as directed by the Incident Commander utilizing either FAST/RIT Standard Operating Procedures or available personnel, whichever is available.

5) **Emergency Evacuation Description**

- A. An Emergency Evacuation Signal will be initiated when personnel on the scene recognize the eminent collapse of a structure during firefighting operations or any change in conditions during an incident, which will endanger personnel. **This is not a Mayday alert!**
- B. An Emergency Evacuation Signal will be given by blasts of apparatus air horns and the procedure will be outlined in this document.

6) **Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

- A. The Emergency Evacuation Procedure for Sullivan County will be as follows:
 - (1) All observations of building and/or incident conditions recognized as an imminent threat to personnel will be reported to the Incident Commander for immediate action.
 - (2) Once the situation has been reported to the Incident Commander, **only** the IC will give the order for apparatus air horns to sound the evacuation signal. This rule must be adhered to so as to eliminate any confusion during an emergency evacuation.
 - (3) Apparatus air horns will sound for approximately one minute and all firefighting and/or rescue activities will cease and emergency accountability of personnel will begin immediately.
 - (4) Once the situation has been assessed and ultimately rectified, the Incident Commander can order fireground operations to continue as conditions permit.

7) **Emergency Radio Function**

- All field radios will be programmed with the EMERGENCY (orange button) enabled
- This EMERGENCY button should be utilized in the event you need assistance and can not speak on the radio.
- Your unit ID and alert tone will be sent to all radios on that particular channel – no revert channel.

- On ground channels incident command should be monitoring for EMERGENCY calls
- If the EMERGENCY call occurs on the COM channel, 911 will acknowledge and relay same to incident command.
- In the event of an EMERGENCY CALL, radio silence will be declared by Incident Command or SULLIVAN FIRE until the EMERGENCY situation is cleared by the unit that called the emergency or IC.
- If EMERGENCY CALL is received by 9-1-1 a police unit will be sent if location of the unit is known.
- If pressed in error, the operator should identify themselves on air and report the error.
- An ID alias table should be programmed into all department radios in order to identify the unit calling.

**EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO CALL FOR HELP FIRST.
ORANGE BUTTON = LAST RESORT**