



San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Training & Education Division **TRAINING DRILL**

Training and Education Division

Date: April 15, 2020

Subject: Fire ground Survival and MAYDAY

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New Training Drills,
Feedback, and
Suggestions send to the
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Background:

- “MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY.” There is no call more challenging to fire ground operations than a Mayday. When a mayday is called all units and radio traffic shall pause and the firefighter will relay information to the Incident Commander that could save their lives. According to the United States Fire Administration, 82 firefighters died in the line of duty in 2018. Of the 82 firefighters that were killed in the line of duty, 30 died at the fire scene. We must be prepared for the MAYDAY by constantly reviewing fire ground fundamentals, rapid intervention crew tactics, and practicing fire ground survival skills that will get us out of the deadly situation. The intent of the information below is to provide company level discussion, review SOP’s, share experiences, and train for unforeseen challenges on the fire ground.

Discussion Points:

- How can we prevent a MAYDAY?
 - Understand fire behavior and fire dynamics
 - Understanding building construction
 - Consistently train on fire ground fundamentals
- What skills and fundamentals do we have to work through a MADAY?
 - What is our communication plan? Does everyone on the crew understand what the plan is?
 - What does GRABLIVES stand for?
 - Wall Breach, Window Hang, Disentanglement Maneuvers, PES, Rapid Ladder Escape, Hose Slide
- What tools do we have to get out of a MAYDAY?
 - PES, Fireground survival skills (example), radio, TIC, wire cutters
 - How can a hose line help us get out of a building?
- How can we manage a MAYDAY?
 - If a MAYDAY is called, what channels do operational companies switch too?
 - How does the MAYDAY change what Fire Attack, Vent Group, etc., do on the fire ground? Do we maintain suppression efforts?
 - When do we conduct a PAR?
 - When do we call for additional alarms? (2nd alarm, 3rd alarm)
 - How does the Accountability Officer assist in a MAYDAY situation?



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Action Items/Drills:

- Watch the video provided in the link on Target Solutions and discuss the scenario with your crew – FDNY “Black Sunday”
- Review GRABLIVES
- Review the MAYDAY worksheet
- Review the MAYDAY Checklist
- Verbally run through an incident on your training channel with other members of your crew. Go to remote locations throughout your fire station and communicate a MAYDAY.
- Review our Air Management Policy, Operations Manual SI 14, Section 07
- Review your Personal Escape System (PES) and its uses.

For additional information follow the links below:

- **Fire Ground Survival, Drill Manual, Chapter 30**
<http://sdfd.targetedsafety.com/drillmanual/Chapter30/pdf/Chapter30.pdf>
- **Project Mayday website:**
<http://projectmayday.net/>
- **The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health**
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/default.html>
- **Firefighter Near Miss**
<https://www.firefighternearmiss.com/>
- **U.S. Fire Administration**
https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/statistics/ff_fatality_reports.html
- **National Fallen Firefighters Foundation**
<https://www.firehero.org/event/nfff-ic-to-ic-discussion-yarnell-hill-fire/>

References:

- **Fire Ground Survival, Drill Manual, Chapter 30**
<http://sdfd.targetedsafety.com/drillmanual/Chapter30/pdf/Chapter30.pdf>
 - **U.S. Fire Administration**
https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/statistics/ff_fatality_reports.html
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