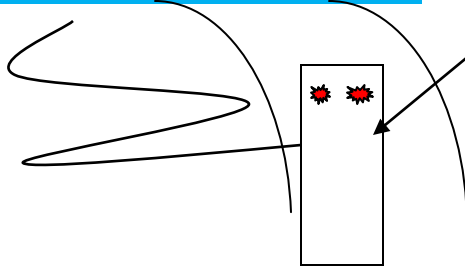


FIRST ARRIVING ENGINE COMPANY, PARKED IN THE DRIVEWAY WITH A HANDLINE PULLED TO THE FRONT (A) SIDE OF THE BUILDING.



DIVISION 6
DIVISION 5
DIVISION 4
DIVISION 3
DIVISION 2
DIVISION 1

☆ DIVISIONS ARE DESIGNATIONS THAT PLACE COMPANIES TOGETHER BY, ON SCENE, GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS. TYPICALLY, THIS INDICATES WHAT FLOOR OUR COMPANY IS OPERATING ON. EXAMPLE: DIVISION 3 IS THE 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR OF A COMPLEX OR HOME. ☆

## MAYDAY/RAPID INTERVENTION TRAINING NOTES

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS A GUIDELINE. THIS GUIDELINE IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED FOR EVERY SITUATION, HOWEVER, IT IS A GOOD TOOL TO BEGIN BUILDING A BASE OF INFORMATION TO BETTER YOURSELF IN CASE THIS SITUATION EVER PRESENTS ITSELF. WITH THAT BEING SAID, THIS INFORMATION IS BY NO MEANS ALL THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RIT AND MAYDAY SITUATIONS. BE VIGILANT, TRAIN AS IF YOUR LIFE AND THE LIFE OF YOUR BROTHERS/SISTERS DEPENDS ON IT.... BECAUSE IN ALL REALITY IT DOES.

## DEFINITIONS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- **MAYDAY:** A MAYDAY IS A VERBAL COMMUNICATION OVER THE RADIO THAT IDENTIFIES AN EMERGENCY, ON A FIRE GROUND, INVOLVING A **FIREFIGHTER**. WEST FRIENDSHIP FIRE AND HOWARD COUNTY FIRE BOTH IDENTIFY THE UTILIZATION OF THE ACRONYM **LUNAR** TO TRANSMIT THIS COMMUNICATION.
- **RIT:** RIT OR RIC STANDS FOR RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM OR RAPID INTERVENTION CREW. BOTH TERMS ARE INTERCHANGEABLE. THE RIT IS A TEAM OF FIREFIGHTERS, THAT ARE DESIGNATED TO STAND - BY, SPECIFICALLY TO RESCUE A FIREFIGHTER IF THE NEED ARISES. THE FORMATION OF THIS TEAM IS MANDATORY FOR ALL WORKING FIRES AND HOWARD COUNTY GENERAL ORDERS HAS A COMPANY PRE ASSIGNED TO THIS TASK PER COMPANY ARRIVAL ORDER TO THE SCENE.

## SITUATIONS THAT WARRANT CALLING A MAYDAY

- THIS IS SIMPLE, BUT OFTEN DONE INCORRECTLY. THE SIMPLE ANSWER IS THAT IF YOU FIND YOURSELF IN **ANY** SITUATION THAT A. IS NOT A NORMAL OCCURRENCE ON A FIRE GROUND, B. THIS SITUATION **MAY EVENTUALLY** LEAD TO YOU BECOMING INJURED OR KILLED CALL A MAYDAY. THIS ALSO APPLIES TO THOSE AROUND YOU, DO THE SAME FOR YOUR FELLOW FIREFIGHTER.
- IT IS IMPERATIVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE EARLIER YOU CALL FOR HELP, THE BETTER YOUR CHANCES OF SURVIVAL. FOR THOSE OF US THAT ATTENDED THE COLLEGE AVE RIT TRAINING, I THINK WE WOULD ALL AGREE THAT THE MORE TIME THE RIT HAS THE BETTER THE OUTCOME. IF YOU WERE NOT THERE ASK SOMEONE THAT WAS FOR DETAIL.
- AUTOMATIC MAYDAY SITUATIONS
  - **YOU BECOME LOST OR DISORIENTED**
  - **BREATHING APPARATUS FAILURE, OUT OF AIR**
  - **ANY ONSET OF MEDICAL PROBLEMS**

- BUILDING COLLAPSE
- FALLEN THROUGH A FLOOR
- YOU BECOME CUT OFF BY FIRE ( EGRESS IS BLOCKED)
- ANY TRAUMATIC INJURY THAT WILL PREVENT YOU EXITING THE IDLH ENVIRONMENT

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT IF ANY OF THESE SITUATIONS OCCUR, A MAYDAY SHOULD BE CALLED IMMEDIATELY, UNLESS ANOTHER CREW MEMBER CAN IMMEDIATELY RECTIFY THE SITUATION 100%.

THERE IS NO SHAME IN CALLING A MAYDAY. NONE OF US ARE INVINCIBLE. WE ALL HAVE EGOS AND THINK WE ARE THE BEST, BUT, THAT IS NO REASON TO REFRAIN FROM ASKING FOR HELP. IF YOU NEED HELP CALL FOR IT EARLY, AS SOON AS YOU REALIZE YOU ARE IN TROUBLE. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE USING YOUR LAST WORDS ON THIS EARTH TO CALL A MAYDAY.

**L:** LOCATION- YOUR CURRENT LOCATION OR THE LOCATION OF THE FIREFIGHTER YOU'RE CALLING THE MAYDAY FOR

**U:** UNIT- YOUR UNIT (IE: ENGINE 31)

**N:** NAME- YOUR NAME (IE: FIRSTNAME, LASTNAME)

**A:** AIR/ASSIGNMENT: GIVE THE AMOUNT OF AIR YOU CURRENTLY HAVE IN YOUR SCBA. GIVE YOUR ASSIGNMENT (IE: FIRE ATTACK)

**R: RESOURCES NEEDED: WHAT RESOURCES DO YOU THINK THE RIT CREW NEEDS TO EXTRICATE YOU. WHATEVER YOU THINK THEY MAY NEED....REQUEST!**

LT. PHILLIPS BROUGHT UP A VERY GOOD POINT DURING OUR TRAINING. HE MADE THE COMMENT THAT PROVIDING A LUNAR IN ORDER TO TRANSMIT A MAYDAY WAS A LOT TO REMEMBER WHEN THE SITUATION OCCURS AND IS ALMOST IMPRACTICAL TO BE ABLE TO RECITE CORRECTLY. THIS POINT IS A VERY GOOD ONE. FOR THE ABOVE REASON, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT PROVIDING THE INFORMATION IN A LUNAR BE PRACTICED INTO PERFECTION. ALL FIREFIGHTERS NEED TO COMMIT THIS INFORMATION TO MUSCLE MEMORY. WHEN THE TIME COMES TO CALL FOR A MAYDAY, YOU DO NOT WANT TO TRY TO REMEMBER WHAT LUNAR STANDS FOR, IT HAS TO BE AUTOMATIC.

**FROM AN INCIDENT COMMAND AND RIT OFFICER STAND POINT I THINK ONE MORE ASPECT NEEDS TO BE ADDED TO THE LUNAR APPROACH. A VERY IMPORTANT ASPECT I WANT TO KNOW IF I OR OUR CREW IS COMING TO GET YOU IS: WHETHER THE FF CALLING THE MAYDAY IS ATTEMPTING SELF RESCUE. IF HE/SHE IS THIS MEANS THAT THEY ARE MOVING AWAY FROM THE LOCATION PROVIDED IN THE LUNAR. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE RIT CREW KNOWS THIS. THE RIT CREW ALSO NEEDS TO KNOW WHERE THE DOWNED FF IS ATTEMPTING TO GO AND WHAT ROUTE HE/SHE IS PLANNING ON TAKING.**

## **RIT CREW RESPONSIBILITY**

THE RIT CREW WILL BE ASSIGNED BY INCIDENT COMMAND. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO ULTIMATELY BE READY TO BE DEPLOYED TO SEARCH AND RESCUE A TRAPPED OR INJURED FF. THE FOLLOWING

ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF WHAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING AS A RIT CREW:

- ALL MEMBERS OF THE RIT CREW SHOULD HAVE TURN OUT GEAR FULLY DONNED WITH SCBA. THIS INCLUDES THE OPERATOR OF THE PIECE OF APPARATUS ASSIGNED TO THE RIT.
- THE RIT OFFICER SHOULD DESIGNATE AN AREA SPECIFICALLY FOR THE STAGING OF EQUIPMENT. THIS SHOULD BE DONE USING A TARP, BY LAYING THE EQUIPMENT OUT ON IT. THIS AREA SHOULD HAVE A GOOD OVERVIEW OF THE FIRE GROUND, GENERALLY POSITIONED ON SIDE ALPHA.
- TOOLS SHOULD BE PULLED FROM APPARATUS, SO THEIR USE CAN BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY IF NEEDED.
  - ◆ **STOKES BASKET WITH BACKBOARD**
  - ◆ **RIT BAG**
  - ◆ **ROPE**
  - ◆ **CHARGED HANDLINE, DEDICATED FOR RIT**
  - ◆ **SAWS, ALL OF THEM**
  - ◆ **HAND TOOLS**
  - ◆ **ENTRY TOOLS, TO INCLUDE HYDRA RAM**
  - ◆ **THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA**
  - ◆ **EXTRA SCBA BOTTLES**
  - ◆ **IF POSSIBLE ROOF AND ATTIC LADDER**
  - ◆ **BLS BAG**

THESE ARE THE MUST HAVE TOOLS, ANYTHING EXTRA CAN BE BROUGHT, AS IT NEVER A BAD IDEA TO HAVE TOO MUCH

THE RIT CREW SHOULD BE DOING CONSTANT 360'S OF THE BUILDING TO ENSURE OPERATIONS ARE OK. WHILE DOING THE 360'S IT IS PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE TO THROW LADDERS FOR EGRESS, CLEAR WINDOWS IF NOT CLEARED, FORCE ENTRY INTO DOORS TO ALLOW FOR EGRESS, AND REMOVE SECURITY BARS FROM WINDOWS AND DOORS. IF YOU THROW GROUND LADDERS TO WINDOWS FOR

EGRESS, UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE ALSO VENTING THE STRUCTURE. **NO VENTILATION SHOULD OCCUR UNLESS IT IS COORDINATED WITH INCIDENT COMMAND AND FIRE ATTACK.**

THE CREW SHOULD VERY CLOSELY MONITOR RADIO TRAFFIC TO ATTEMPT TO PICK UP ON ANY MAYDAY MESSAGE, LOCATIONS OF CREWS OPERATING IN THE STRUCTURE, AND THE STAGES OF OPERATIONS.

THROUGH TALKING WITH FRIDAY NIGHT CREW, USING EVERYONE'S PERSONAL TRAINING EXPERIENCES, WE CONCLUDED THAT THE FIRST RIT TEAM DEPLOYED WILL PROBABLY HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO LOCATE, PROVIDE AIR, AND SHELTER THE DOWNED FF. KNOWING THIS, THE MOST VITAL TASK WE SHOULD BE CONCERNED WITH IS LOCATING AND PROVIDING AIR FOR THE FF. IF WE CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS, WE ARE BUYING MUCH NEEDED ADDITIONAL TIME TO RESCUE THE FF.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALIZE THAT OPERATIONAL ACTIONS WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUR AS RIT IS DEPLOYED. WITH THAT BEING SAID IF WE ARE ASSIGNED AS AN ENGINE COMPANY WITH A GOAL OF FIRE ATTACK, DO NOT ABANDON THIS POSITION. EVERYONE WANTS TO HELP THE DOWNED FF, HOWEVER, CONTAINING THE FIRE IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS LOCATING AND RESCUE. IT IS IMPERATIVE TO LISTEN TO YOUR OFFICER IN THIS SITUATION AS HE/SHE WILL GUIDE YOU WITH THE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS.

WE LISTENED TO A COUPLE OF MAYDAY TRANSMISSIONS, CREDITED TO JEFF STURGESS, WHO DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB FINDING THEM. PLEASE LISTEN TO THE FOLLOWING AUDIO.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-thdbkp80Ts>

BALTIMORE COUNTY LAST WEEK.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpJl\\_R-98M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpJl_R-98M)

HOUSTON MAYDAY. VERY GRAPHIC AND VERY HARD TO LISTEN TO. GOOD NEWS IS THE FF LIVED. LISTEN SPECIFICALLY TO 3:55. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO BE LISTENING AND UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE HEARING. A VERY SUBTLE VIBRATING NOISE IS HEARD IN THE BACKGROUND. THIS NOISE IS A SCOTT SCBA OUT OF AIR, SIMILAR TO OUR SCBA BELL RINGING. IT MEANS YOU HAVE ABOUT 30 SECONDS.