

## Rapid Intervention/Two-In Two-Out

### 303.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to increase firefighter safety by implementing procedures for safeguarding and rescuing firefighters while operating in environments that are immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH).

This policy applies to all members assigned to an incident and is designed to ensure immediate assistance for members who become lost, trapped or injured by adhering to the two-in/two-out standard and designating rapid intervention crews (RIC) (29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4)).

#### 303.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH)** - An atmospheric concentration of any toxic, corrosive or asphyxiant substance that to an unprotected person poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a hazardous area. Interior atmospheric conditions at structure fires beyond the incipient stage are considered IDLH, as are a variety of rescue types.

**Two-Out** - A group of at least two members located outside the IDLH atmosphere to initially monitor and provide emergency rescue for responders until a formalized Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) is established. One of the two members may be assigned to an additional role, as long as the individual is able to perform assistance or rescue activities without jeopardizing the safety or health of any firefighter at the incident.

**Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC)** - A formalized designated group of individuals or companies whose sole function is to prepare, monitor and provide for effective emergency rescue of responders in IDLH atmospheres.

**Rapid Intervention Crew Supervisor** - The officer designated by the Incident Commander as the Group Leader of Rapid Intervention. Unless otherwise directed, this is the officer of the company assigned to Rapid Intervention. A Chief Officer should be assigned this position as the incident dictates.

### 303.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Fresno County Fire Protection District to ensure that adequate personnel are on scene before interior operations begin in any IDLH environment. However, nothing in this policy is meant to preclude firefighters from performing emergency rescue activities before an entire team has assembled. The District will follow the Fresno Operational Area Rapid Intervention Guidelines.

[See attachment: Fresno-Operational-Area-Rapid-Intervention-Guideline-Final-011315.pdf](#)

[See attachment: Fresno-Operational-Area-Firefighter-Emergency-Guideline-Final-011315.pdf](#)

## *Rapid Intervention/Two-In Two-Out*

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### **303.3 PRE-DEPLOYMENT**

Prior to initiating any fire attack in any IDLH environment with no confirmed rescue in progress, members should ensure that there are sufficient resources on-scene to establish two-in/two-out procedures (29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4)).

- (a) Members should ensure that at least two firefighters using self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) enter the IDLH environment and remain in voice or visual contact with one another at all times.
- (b) At least two additional firefighters should be located outside the IDLH environment.
  - 1. One of the two outside firefighters may be assigned to an additional role so long as the individual is able to perform assistance or rescue activities without jeopardizing the safety or health of any firefighter working at the incident.

### **303.4 INITIAL DEPLOYMENT**

A written personnel accountability system will be maintained whenever companies are operating at IDLH incidents. Individual crew names will be posted in a conspicuous location in the cab of District vehicles.

During the initial phase of an incident, confirmed rescues should take priority. When a confirmed rescue is in progress during the initial phase of an incident, emergency rescue activities may be performed before Two-Out has assembled.

All members operating in IDLH environments should be tracked and accounted for at all times, except when it would preclude firefighters from performing emergency rescue activities during the initial phase of the incident.

### **303.5 RIC DUTIES**

The RIC should be assembled from resources at the scene, whose sole function is to prepare for, monitor and provide effective emergency rescue for responders.

- (a) To the extent possible, visual, voice and signal line communication should be maintained between those working in the IDLH environment and the RIC outside the IDLH environment.
- (b) RIC members should not be involved in any other duties that divert attention or resources away from their primary mission of responder rescue.
  - 1. Acceptable duties may include identifying and preparing access and emergency rescue egress points from affected areas, the pre-positioning of exterior ladders, forcible entry and other rescue equipment as needed at strategic locations.
- (c) Additional companies may be assigned to the RIC as conditions warrant. For large incidents with multiple points of entry, multiple RICs should be considered.

### **303.6 EMERGENCY DEPLOYMENT OF A RIC**

When a firefighter-down or firefighter-missing broadcast is transmitted, all non-emergency radio traffic should be cleared from the radio channels that the missing or trapped firefighter is using.

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Non-affected personnel should switch to other tactical frequencies. At least two individuals should be dedicated solely to monitoring the tactical channel. One person should be responsible for gathering information on the identity, location and condition of trapped or missing firefighter, while the second person should communicate and offer support on the tactical channel.

For an emergency deployment of a RIC, a Rescue Branch Director position should be activated to coordinate the rescue as well as any fire activities in support of the rescue effort. Other divisions and groups may support the Rescue Branch Director's efforts by diverting fire spread through horizontal or vertical ventilation to draw fire away from the affected rescue areas and by placing hose streams to check fire spread and protect rescue efforts.

The RIC supervisor should notify the Rescue Branch Director before making entry for emergency rescue. The Rescue Branch Director should provide any assistance that is appropriate to the situation. Additional resources should be ordered as needed, including additional RICs, medical treatment and transportation groups or other organizational elements.

## Attachments

## Fresno-Operational-Area-Rapid-Intervention-Guideline-Final-011315.pdf

# Fresno Operational Area Rapid Intervention

## Standard Operating Guideline

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1.0 **Purpose:** To establish a guideline for the formation of Two-Out and their progression into Rapid Intervention.

1.01 **Scope:** All Emergency Response Personnel

1.02 **Definitions**

**Appropriately Equipped:**

In addition to the required personal protective clothing, appropriately equipped includes positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus and appropriate rescue equipment for removing Fire personnel who enter hazardous atmospheres.

**Emergency Traffic:**

Term used to clear radio channels used at an incident to allow for important radio traffic, i.e., firefighter emergency situation or an immediate change in tactical operations (offensive to defensive).

**IDLH Atmosphere:**

**Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health.** 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. Any structure fire beyond the incipient stage is considered to have an IDLH atmosphere. **Examples of identified Emergency Incidents**, that could require Two-Out, but are not limited to, would include:

- Structure Fires
- Hazardous Materials Incidents
- Complex Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue

**Incipient Stage Fire:**

A fire which is in the initial or beginning stage and which can be controlled or extinguished by portable fire extinguishers, Class II standpipe, or reel line, without the need for breathing apparatus.

**Interior Structure Fire Fighting:**

The physical activity of fire suppression, rescue, or both, inside of buildings or enclosed structures that are involved in a fire situation beyond the incipient stage.

**Mayday:**

The term used to clear designated channels used at an incident to make way for important radio traffic for a firefighter in distress, in need of immediate assistance/rescue.

**Personal Accountability Report (PAR):**

**Personnel Accountability Report** is a survey of fire ground resources to account for all personnel by assignment or unit.

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### Rapid Intervention:

Rapid Intervention is a group formed by combining Two-Out personnel with the company assigned to Rapid Intervention.

### Rapid Intervention Group:

Consists of a minimum of four (4) firefighters. This group will include the Two-Out and one (1) Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor, plus any additional personnel assigned to this group.

### Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor:

The officer designated by the Incident Commander as the Group Leader of Rapid Intervention. Unless otherwise directed, this is the officer of the company assigned to Rapid Intervention. A Chief Officer should be assigned this position as the incident dictates.

### Rescue Mode:

The action of firefighters entering into an IDLH without the establishment of Two-Out to save life.

### Two-Out:

Two appropriately equipped firefighters established outside the IDLH prior to firefighters working in an IDLH atmosphere, with the exception of rescue mode.

## 1.03 **Application**

The primary task of Two-Out and the Rapid Intervention Group is to respond to any firefighter reported in distress. The official term for firefighter in distress shall be "MAYDAY" (Reference: Operational Area Firefighter Emergency Standard Operating Guideline). The intent of this guideline is to establish Two-Out with a progression toward the Rapid Intervention Group for firefighter rescues at all incidents with an immediately dangerous to life or health IDLH atmosphere, or potentially IDLH.

All personnel entering an IDLH atmosphere shall operate utilizing a "Buddy System" and shall maintain voice or visual contact at all times. Radios or other electronic equipment shall not be used as a substitute for voice or visual contact.

Personnel shall not enter an IDLH environment until Two-Out or the Rapid Intervention Group has been established. At structure fires, where it is determined interior fire conditions are beyond the incipient stage, a minimum of two (2) firefighters are required to fill the Two-Out assignment using the guidelines listed below.

**Exception [Ref. Title 8 CCR 5144(g)]:** Personnel may initiate interior attack without establishing "Two-Out or Rapid Intervention" under the following conditions:

1. The fire is in the incipient stage and has not reached IDLH.

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2. The first-arriving firefighters on scene find an imminent life-threatening situation, where immediate action may prevent the loss of life or serious injury, (including civilian rescues).

Personnel initiating entry into an IDLH without establishing “Two-Out or Rapid Intervention” shall notify dispatch they are in “**Rescue Mode**”.

### 1.04 **Rapid Intervention Group Progression**

The progression of the Rapid Intervention Group shall occur in the following order:

1. Initial firefighter safety is provided by the Two-Out.
2. The Rapid Intervention Group is formed by combining the Two-Out members with the company assigned Rapid Intervention (minimum of 4 personnel). The officer of the company assigned Rapid Intervention will be referred to as the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor.
3. At the incident commander’s discretion, the Rapid Intervention Group should be expanded to include multiple engine or truck companies and one Chief Officer if available.

### 1.05 **Two-Out Guidelines**

Two-Out will be designated for firefighter safety as the first step toward the progression of a Rapid Intervention Group. Two-Out will be in place at the point of entry and established over the radio prior to any interior operations of an IDLH.

#### **Initial Arriving Officers**

1. Determine if IDLH conditions exist. On structure fires, determine if the fire is beyond the incipient stage.
2. Do not commit or assign personnel into an IDLH atmosphere prior to a Two-Out being established unless you arrive and declare “Rescue Mode”.
3. The Incident Commander is responsible for establishing the Two-Out over the radio declaring to all personnel that operations in the IDLH may be initiated.

#### **Two-Out Members**

1. Obtain a charged hose line of equal or greater size than the line utilized on fire attack.
2. Gather basic tools:
  - Wire Cutters
  - Webbing or Rescue Strap
  - Hand Tools (Irons)



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- Equipment from Rapid Intervention Tool Cache (optional)
3. Take a position near the entry point.
  4. One member of the Two-Out shall be dedicated to the tracking and accounting for personnel entering the IDLH atmosphere:
    - Unit, location and assignment
    - Time and place of entry
  5. Other firefighters assigned as part of Two-Out are permitted to take other actions, such as utilities or preparing for the establishment of Rapid Intervention. Two-Out personnel cannot initiate a task that would place any firefighter on the fire ground at additional risk should that task need to be immediately abandoned.

## **Two-Out Deployment**

Two-Out may deploy under the following conditions with an **immediate notification** to the Incident Commander or Operations Section Chief:

1. For a firefighter rescue.
2. Life-threatening situation where immediate action may prevent the loss of a life or serious injury, including a victim rescue.

## 1.06 **Rapid Intervention Group Guidelines**

The purpose of a Rapid Intervention Group is to provide for proactive fire ground tactics for firefighter safety and the rescue of firefighters. The Rapid Intervention needs for an incident must be reassessed as the incident progresses. The number of entry crew(s), geographical size of area(s), and number of entry points must constantly be monitored to ensure sufficient personnel are readily available to assist fire personnel working in the IDLH or hazard area.

Upon arrival and receipt of the Rapid Intervention assignment, personnel shall take the following actions:

### **Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor**

The position of the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor is to maintain command and control of the personnel they are assigned. The Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor will be the Company Officer assigned to Rapid Intervention and is responsible for all Rapid Intervention operations on the incident. This includes all operations on all channels.

The initial officer assigned as the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor has the discretion to deploy with their crew or maintain command of Rapid Intervention outside the IDLH. It is preferred that the Rapid Intervention Company Officer deploy with their crew, and a qualified Officer assume command as the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor outside the IDLH.

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The Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor will report to the Incident Commander or Operations Section Chief. The Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor should remain mobile on the incident. Upon arrival, the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor should:

1. Make contact with Two-Out; absorb them into Rapid Intervention.
2. Ensure all Rapid Intervention members are:
  - Appropriately equipped
  - On the same radio channel
  - Know who is in charge of entry
  - Assigned a positional assignment (Rapid Intervention air pack, tools, search rope, etc.)
3. Perform a 360° size up of the incident and note:
  - Access points
  - Adequate egress is available
  - Building points to soften
  - Hazards for Command
4. Establish Rapid Intervention over the radio.
5. Request addition resources if needed to expand Rapid Intervention capabilities.
6. It is the responsibility of the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor to clarify crew radio designators within the Rapid Intervention Group. (See 1.07)

### **Rapid Intervention Personnel**

1. Confirm Two-Out has a rescue hose line immediately available for deployment.
2. Establish the Rapid Intervention equipment cache:
  - Rapid Intervention air pack or spare SCBA and mask
  - Carry All
  - Flashlights including one for entry point(s)
  - Chain and/or Circular saw(s)
  - Thermal Imaging Camera
  - Haligan and Flat Head Axe (Irons)
  - Search Ropes
  - Bolt Cutters
  - Wire Cutters
  - Door Wedges
  - Ladder or Stokes Basket (optional)

*Though a minimum equipment cache is identified, additional equipment may be added to the cache as necessary to augment rescue capabilities.*

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3. Provide for proactive tactics at the direction of the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor.
  - Soften the building (forcing exits, removing bars, opening doors, etc.)
  - Place narrow beam lights in exits
  - Providing alternate roof escape routes
  - Notifying the Incident Commander of hazards
4. Stage (See 1.09) and continue to monitor interior crew location(s) and tactical objectives, building on the information from the Two-Out members.

### 1.07 Expansion of Rapid Intervention

If the incident/structure is large enough to require entry at multiple locations or levels, or divisions are established with multiple entry points, additional Two-Out or Rapid Intervention Crews may be required for each point of entry.

If more than one Two-Out is required to safely support operations, they will be named based upon geographical positioning. For example, in a large single-story warehouse, Each Division may establish their own Two-Out. Each Two-Out would be assigned as: **Two-Out Alpha, Two-Out Bravo, Two-Out Charlie, or Two-Out Delta**. This is done to minimize confusion over the radio during operations.

If more than one Rapid Intervention Crew is required to safely support operations, or a Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor takes control of all Two-Out crews and reassigns Rapid Intervention Crews, they will be named based upon geographical positioning. Each geographical Rapid Intervention Crew may be composed of multiple fire companies. For example, in a large single-story warehouse, Rapid Intervention Crews are to be assigned as: **Rapid Intervention Alpha, Rapid Intervention Bravo, Rapid Intervention Charlie, or Rapid Intervention Delta**. The Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor is responsible to clearly identify who is in charge of each Rapid Intervention Crew.

In a multi-story incident with multiple levels of operations, the naming of the multiple Rapid Intervention Crews would be assigned by a numeric identifier to identify the floor they are responsible for. Each numerical Rapid Intervention Crew may be composed of multiple fire companies. For example: **Rapid Intervention 6** or **Rapid Intervention 4**. The Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor is responsible to clearly identify who is in charge of each Rapid Intervention Crew.

### 1.08 Rapid Intervention Deployment Procedures

The Rapid Intervention Group shall take the following actions when a Rapid Intervention deployment is initiated:

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## Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor

The Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor should remain mobile on the incident and take the following actions when a Rapid Intervention Deployment is initiated:

1. Deploy the Rapid Intention Crew(s).
2. Initiate the Rapid Intervention Checklist.
3. Request additional resources through Incident Command or Operations Section Chief to backfill the deployed Rapid Intervention Crew(s)
4. Request an aid if one has not been assigned.
5. Remain in constant contact with the deployed Rapid Intervention Crew(s) and the firefighter in distress.
6. Secure all entrances to the deployment area.
7. Size up access points, egress points, fire behavior, and current fire operations.

## Deployed Rapid Intervention Crew(s)

1. Ensure all Rapid Intervention Group members are on the same radio channel as the firefighter in distress.
2. Ensure all Rapid Intervention Group members are aware of their radio identifier. Rapid Intervention, Rapid Intervention Alpha, Division 3 Rapid Intervention, etc.
3. Confirm the rescue plan with all crew members, including positional assignments.
4. Notify the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor of the number of Rapid Intervention personnel making entry and entry point. Examples:
  - a. *“Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor, Rapid Intervention is making entry with three on the bravo side with a right handed search following the hose line.”*
  - b. *“Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor, Rapid Intervention Charlie is making entry with six with a right handed search following the hose line.”*
5. Make Entry.

### 1.09 Staging of Rapid Intervention Group

Two-Out and Rapid Intervention Group shall be located at a safe position, outside the IDLH/hazard area. **Two-Out and Rapid Intervention must still be able to monitor**

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conditions by visual observation and the communication of assigned personnel over the radio traffic.

Considerations of a staging location(s) for Rapid Intervention shall include:

- Initial entry point(s) of interior crew(s)
- Secondary egress points
- Hazards
- Building construction
- Size and layout of the building or hazard area(s)
- Number of personnel working in the hazard area(s)

In high-rise fire incidents, the Rapid Intervention Group should typically be located one floor below the fire-floor or point of entry for crews working in the IDLH or hazard areas. Another consideration for positioning Rapid Intervention in a high-rise could be at Staging. Either of these locations would allow for Rapid Intervention to be deployed in a timely manner without staging the Rapid Intervention Group in an IDLH environment.

### 1.10 **Disbanding of Two-Out or Rapid Intervention Group**

The disbanding of the Two-Out or Rapid Intervention Group component is critical information to disseminate to all personnel remaining at scene. When considering disbanding, the Incident Commander shall ensure the following points are considered:

- Two-Out or the Rapid Intervention Group shall not be disbanded until all IDLH atmospheres have been mitigated and all fire personnel are removed from all other incident hazards, i.e., building collapse.
- Complete a final PAR to account for all incident personnel prior to disbanding.
- Communicate the disbanding of the Two-Out or the Rapid Intervention Group to all incident personnel via the radio.
- Continually monitor the scene for a change of events or conditions that may necessitate the reassigning of a Two-Out or the Rapid Intervention Group.

### 1.11 **IDLH Report Form**

Initial attack operations shall be organized to ensure that, if upon arrival at the emergency scene, initial attack personnel find an imminent life-threatening situation which immediate action could prevent the loss of life or serious injury, such action shall be permitted without RIC being assembled when conducted in accordance with NFPA 1500. No exception shall be permitted when there is no possibility to save lives. Any such actions taken in accordance with this section shall be thoroughly investigated by the fire department with a written report submitted to the fire chief (NFPA 1500). The Company Officer/Acting Company Officer

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deviating from this guideline must complete the Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) Form before the completion of his/her shift. A copy of the form shall be sent to the on-duty shift Battalion Chief and a copy shall be sent to the Fire Chief. All completed IDLH forms received at Fire Headquarters (Fire Chief) will be placed in an IDLH file maintained at Fire Headquarters.

## **Cross References**

National Incident Management System Consortium Book 1 – First Edition  
National Fire Protection Association, 1500  
National Fire Protection Association, 1710  
National Fire Protection Association, 1407  
Fire Scope ICS-910  
Fire Scope ICS-420-1  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 CFR 1910 & 1926  
California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5144  
Command & Control Decision Making at Multiple Alarm Incidents, 2nd 2013 (NFA)  
Operational Area Firefighter Emergency Standard Operating Guideline

# Fresno-Operational-Area-Firefighter- Emergency-Guideline-Final-011315.pdf

# Fresno Operational Area Firefighter Emergency Standard Operating Guideline

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2.0 **Purpose:** To establish a guideline for a Firefighter Emergency

2.01 **Scope:** All Fire Department Personnel

2.02 **Definitions**

Appropriately Equipped:

In addition to the required personal protective clothing, appropriately equipped includes positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus and appropriate rescue equipment for removing the employee(s) who enter the hazardous atmospheres, or equivalent means of rescue where retrieval equipment is not required.

Emergency Traffic:

The term used to clear designated channels used at an incident to make way for important radio traffic for a firefighter emergency situation or an immediate change in tactical operations (offensive to defensive).

FACTS:

Acronym for **F**all, **A**ir, **C**ollapse, **T**rapped, or **S**eparated

IDLH Atmosphere:

**Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health.** 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. Any structure fire beyond the incipient stage is considered to have an IDLH atmosphere. **Examples of identified Emergency Incidents**, that could require a RIC, but are not limited to, would include:

- Structure fires
- Hazardous Materials Incidents (IDLH, potential IDLH, or unknown atmosphere)
- Complex Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue (IDLH, potential IDLH, or unknown atmosphere)

Incipient Stage Fire:

A fire which is in the initial or beginning stage and which can be controlled or extinguished by portable fire extinguishers, Class II standpipe, or reel line, without the need for breathing apparatus.

Interior Structure Fire Fighting:

The physical activity of fire suppression, rescue, or both, inside buildings or enclosed structures that are involved in a fire situation beyond the incipient stage.



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## NULCAN:

Acronym for **N**ame, **U**nit, **L**ocation, **C**ondition, **A**ction, and **N**eed

## Mayday:

The term used to clear designated channels used at an incident to make way for important radio traffic for a firefighter in distress, in need of immediate assistance/rescue.

## Personal Accountability Report (PAR):

**P**ersonnel **A**ccountability **R**eport is a survey of fire ground resources to account for all personnel by assignment or unit.

## Rapid Intervention:

Rapid Intervention is a group formed by combining Two-Out personnel with the company assigned to Rapid Intervention.

## Rapid Intervention Group:

Consists of a minimum of four (4) firefighters. This group will include the Two-Out and one (1) Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor, plus any addition personnel assigned to this group.

## Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor:

The officer designated by the Incident Commander as the Group Leader of Rapid Intervention. Unless otherwise directed, this is the officer of the company assigned to Rapid Intervention. A Chief Officer may also be assigned this position as the incident dictates.

## Two-Out:

Two appropriately equipped firefighters established outside the IDLH prior to firefighters working in an IDLH atmosphere, with the exception of rescue mode.

## 2.03 **Declaring the Mayday**

A MAYDAY is specific to firefighters in distress and in need of immediate assistance. In the event a firefighter cannot be located through a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR), or any time a firefighter is missing, a fellow crew member shall declare a MAYDAY. A firefighter MAYDAY is declared as follows:

1. Personnel SHALL declare a MAYDAY when they are in one of the following situations, commonly referred to as FACTS:
  - a. **F**all – Fall from roof, ladder, stairs, etc.
  - b. **A**ir – Air emergency or low air level
  - c. **C**ollapse – Collapse of the roof, ceiling, floor, wall, etc.
  - d. **T**rapped – Trapped by debris, entanglement, exit cut off, etc.
  - e. **S**eparated – Separated from crew, disoriented, etc.

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2. It is imperative that all units, upon hearing a MAYDAY or hearing the emergency alert tone, cease all radio transmission.
3. When a firefighter identifies they, or a member of their crew, is lost, trapped, injured, or in need of immediate assistance, they shall (if possible) transmit a verbal message on the fire ground channel stating "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY." Command will answer immediately, "Go ahead with your MAYDAY."
4. The person transmitting the MAYDAY shall give a brief situational status report using the acronym NULCAN or Who/What/Where/Air:

**Name:** State your name  
**Unit:** State your company and/or assignment  
**Location:** State your current or last known location  
**Conditions:** Identify surroundings affecting you, including air, ½ tank, ¼ tank, etc.  
**Actions:** Identify actions you are taking, including self-rescue  
**Needs:** Identify your special needs or equipment required

- NULCAN Example: *"Mayday, Mayday, Mayday... This is Captain Gomes on Engine 42. I am on the second floor near the Bravo/Charlie corner. I am separated from my crew with a quarter tank of air, attempting to locate a window. I need Two-Out deployed."*
  - Who/What/Where/Air Example: *"Mayday, Mayday, Mayday... This is Firefighter Holt on Engine 85. I am trapped by debris on the third floor with one half tank of air."*
5. After the radio transmission has been successful, the firefighter in distress shall activate their PASS alarm, turn on their flashlight, and continue to self-extricate.
  6. After declaring the MAYDAY, should the firefighter self-rescue, they may cancel the MAYDAY.
  7. Upon hearing a MAYDAY, personnel on-scene shall maintain fire ground discipline in their current assignment. This is intended to provide for incident coordination during Two-Out or Rapid Intervention deployment.

## 2.04 Command Response to Mayday

Command shall respond to a MAYDAY by implementing a rescue plan for the distressed firefighter. Command will maintain an awareness of the location of firefighters on the fire ground primarily through assignments and the accountability system. In the event a firefighter cannot be located through a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR), or any time a firefighter is missing, Command shall declare a MAYDAY.

1. **After the receipt of a MAYDAY and NULCAN or Who/What/Where/Air report, Deploy the Two-out / Rapid Intervention**

# Fresno Operational Area Firefighter Emergency Standard Operating Guideline

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2. Transfer pertinent information to the Rapid Intervention Worksheet.
3. Command shall notify the Communication Center to activate the emergency alert tone. (Reference Operational Area Emergency Alert Tone Standard Operating Guideline.)
4. Command shall then announce the MAYDAY situation over the fire ground channel, **Deploy Two-Out or Rapid Intervention**, and secure the MAYDAY firefighter's radio channel by reassigning all operational radio traffic to an alternate channel.
  - a. Example: (Emergency Alert Tone) *"All units from Command, we have a MAYDAY in progress; one firefighter lost on the second floor, running low on air, requesting immediate assistance. Rapid Intervention deploy, all other units switch to channel - \_\_\_\_\_."*
5. Command must restructure the strategy of the incident to include a rescue effort.
  - a. Consider a Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor to oversee the rescue operation if not in place. Place Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor on the frequency where the MAYDAY was declared.
  - b. Ensure the Two-Out or Rapid Intervention Crew has been deployed.
  - c. Develop an additional Two-Out or Rapid Intervention Crew.
  - d. Assign resources to the Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor as requested.
  - e. Request additional resources from Communications:
    - Escalate to an additional alarm with staging location
    - Additional EMS units
    - US&R Team
6. A PAR must be conducted of all units on the fire ground on all channels.
7. Take into consideration methods to keep any hazards from reaching the personnel in distress. In some cases it may be appropriate to write-off some area of the building/hazard area in order to relocate resources to better protect the rescue effort.
8. If the Communications Center receives a MAYDAY on any other channel that is not the fire ground channel, Communications shall notify Command and Command will conduct the rescue operations on the channel which the MAYDAY was declared, moving other resources to another channel.

# Fresno Operational Area Firefighter Emergency Standard Operating Guideline

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## Command Checklist for Mayday

- ➡ A printable version for the Command vehicle or apparatus. See page 6 of this document

## References

National Incident Management System Consortium Book 1 – First Edition  
National Fire Protection Association, 1500  
National Fire Protection Association, 1710  
National Fire Protection Association, 1407  
Fire Scope ICS-910  
Fire Scope ICS-420-1  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 CFR 1910 and 1926  
California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5144  
Operational Area Rapid Intervention Standard Operating Guideline  
Operational Area Emergency Alert Tone Standard Operating Guideline

# Fresno Operational Area Firefighter Emergency Standard Operating Guideline

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## COMMAND CHECKLIST FOR MAYDAY

- ➔ Acknowledge the MAYDAY with a situational status (NULCAN - Who/What/Where/Air)
  
- ➔ Deploy Two-Out / Rapid Intervention
  
- ➔ Notify Communication Center to activate emergency alert tone on specific channel
  
- ➔ Announce the MAYDAY situation over the fire ground channel
  - a. (Emergency Alert Tone) *“All units from Command, we have a MAYDAY in progress; one firefighter lost on the second floor, running low on air, requesting immediate assistance. Rapid Intervention deploy, all other units Standby for assignments.”*
  
- ➔ Change the plan from a fire attack to a high priority rescue
  - Consider establishing a Rapid Intervention Group Supervisor
  
- ➔ Move all fire ground frequencies to another channel
  
- ➔ Obtain PAR
  
- ➔ Request additional resources
  - Additional alarm with staging location
  - Additional EMS units
  - US&R Team
  
- ➔ Establish an additional Two-Out / Rapid Intervention Crew when resources allow