

MISSING OR TRAPPED FIREFIGHTERS

PURPOSE

To establish safe operating procedures for missing or trapped firefighters or other circumstances where firefighters are compromised in a hazardous area.

PROCEDURE

1. Command Responsibilities
 - A. If a company or individual firefighter cannot be located through a PAR, or any other time a firefighter is missing, a Mayday message will be transmitted.
 - B. The Incident Commander will respond to a Mayday by modifying the incident action plan to address both the firefighter rescue and firefighting operations. This plan must include
 - i. Commit the Two-Out or RIT team.
 - ii. Establish a defensible space.
 - iii. Order additional resources.
 - iv. Establish a rescue branch.
 - v. Maintain RIT.
 - vi. Assign a separate TAC channel.
 - vii. Assign a safety officer.
 - viii. Order support resources.
 - ix. Mandatory notifications.
2. Firefighter Rescue Branch
 - A. Assignment of firefighter rescue operations to a branch permits concentrated focus on this critical activity while continuing ongoing firefighting efforts.
 - B. Key components may include
 - i. Firefighter Search Group
 - ii. Fire Control Group.
 - iii. Firefighter Rescue Branch Staging.
 - iv. Firefighter Extrication Group.
 - v. Medical Unit.
 - vi. Firefighter Support Group.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The IC will assume that an individual is lost, trapped, or missing until that individual or team is accounted for.
- Supporting the AWARE plan may require a substantial number of resources.