

**PUBLIC  
SERVICE  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

A photograph showing firefighters in a dark, smoke-filled environment. The scene is dimly lit, with some light reflecting off the firefighters' gear. The text "SILENT MAYDAY" is overlaid in large, bold, red, 3D-style letters, slanted diagonally across the center of the image. The background shows structural elements of a building, possibly a ceiling or wall, with some debris and smoke.

**SILENT  
MAYDAY**



**CANCER HAS CAUSED 63% OF CAREER  
FIREFIGHTER LINE-OF-DUTY DEATHS  
SINCE 2002. HEART DISEASE CAUSED  
19% OF THE LINE-OF-DUTY DEATHS.**

- IAFF data 1.1.2002 to 12.31.2017

## Firefighter cancer fact check

Although cancer is the leading cause of firefighter line-of-duty deaths, firefighters are not “68 percent more likely to develop cancer than the general population.”

Accurate data is crucial when quantifying occupational cancer’s toll on—and threat to—firefighters and their families. Recently, a number of well-intended journalists, legislators, manufacturers, and others have cited **inaccurate firefighter cancer statistics**, including the following erroneous examples:

- ❑ “...the risk of cancer in firefighters is 250% greater than in people not in our line of work.”
- ❑ “In all, researchers found that more than two-thirds of firefighters—68 percent—develop cancer, compared to about 22 percent for the general population...”
- ❑ “Firefighters...have a 68% higher risk of being diagnosed with cancer than the general population.”
- ❑ “Research is showing 68% of firefighters will come down with cancer on average.”
- ❑ “...More than two-thirds of firefighters are diagnosed with...cancer.”
- ❑ “...63% of all firefighters will get cancer.”
- ❑ “...[Researchers] found that firefighters are twice as likely to be diagnosed with cancer...”
- ❑ “...[F]irefighters are 50 percent more likely to be diagnosed with cancer than the...U.S. population.”
- ❑ “A firefighter has a 29% higher risk of contracting cancer than the rest of our population.”

129 percent increased risk of *dying* from mesothelioma. (The earlier LeMasters meta-analysis also reported a two-fold excess for testicular cancer.)

Firefighters have a 62 percent higher risk of getting esophageal cancer, and they have a 39 percent increased risk of *dying* from esophageal cancer, according to the NIOSH research.

Here's an overview with some specific additional risks for firefighters noted:

- ❑ testicular cancer - 2.02 times the risk (again: 100% = double = 2 times)
- ❑ mesothelioma - 2.0 times greater risk;
- ❑ multiple myeloma -1.53 times greater risk;
- ❑ non-Hodgkin's lymphoma - 1.51 times greater risk;
- ❑ skin cancer - 1.39 times greater risk;
- ❑ malignant melanoma - 1.31 times greater risk;
- ❑ brain cancer -1.31 times greater risk;
- ❑ prostate cancer - 1.28 times greater risk;
- ❑ colon cancer -1.21 times great risk; and
- ❑ leukemia - 1.14 times greater risk.





- **Cardiovascular** (Increased HR and BP, Decreased Stroke Volume)
- **Hematological** (Decreased Plasma Volume, Hemoconcentration)
- **Thermoregulatory** (Elevated Core Temperature, Dehydration)
- **Respiratory** (Increased Breathing Rate and Oxygen Consumption)
- **Metabolic** (High Oxygen Cost, Increased Lactate, Fatigue)
- **Immune/Endocrine** (Increased Leukocytes and Hormones)
- **Nervous** (Sympathetic Surge and Increased Adrenaline)
- **Muscular** (Increased Oxygen Use and Heat Production)



# Firefighter Cancer Support Network

## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM **CANCER**

- C** LEAN OR CHANGE-OUT YOUR PPE AFTER EVERY WORKING FIRE
- A** FTER EVERY FIRE, TAKE A SHOWER AND CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES ASAP
- N** EVER WEAR OR PLACE DIRTY PPE IN LIVING AREAS, INCLUDING YOUR CAR
- C** ONSIDER SUNSCREEN AND WEARING A HAT WHILE WORKING IN THE SUN
- E** XHAUST IS DEADLY, BE SURE TO USE YOUR STATION'S EXHAUST SYSTEMS
- R** EMEMBER TO GET ANNUAL PHYSICALS, INCLUDING CANCER SCREENINGS!
- S** CBA'S MUST BE WORN FROM ENTRY THRU OVERHAUL, NO EXCEPTIONS!

For Immediate assistance call toll free **(866) 994-FCSN**.  
For further information about

**Firefighter Cancer Support Network**  
visit us on the web: [www.FirefighterCancerSupport.org](http://www.FirefighterCancerSupport.org)

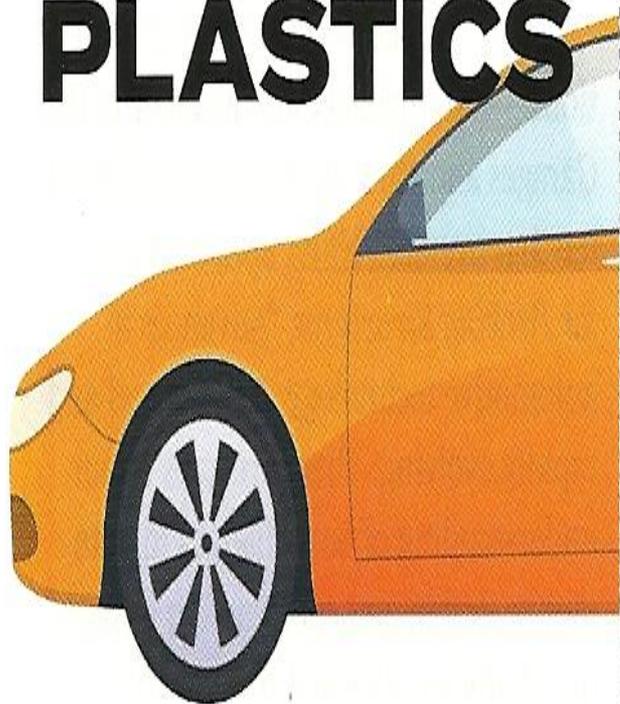
Proudly endorsed  
and supported by:



Supporting Those Who Serve

BUG

# ONE WORD: PLASTICS



THE AVERAGE  
MODERN  
VEHICLE IS

**50%**

PLASTIC BY  
VOLUME

**AND**

**10%**

PLASTIC  
BY WEIGHT

BY 2020, THE  
TYPICAL VEHICLE  
WILL CONTAIN

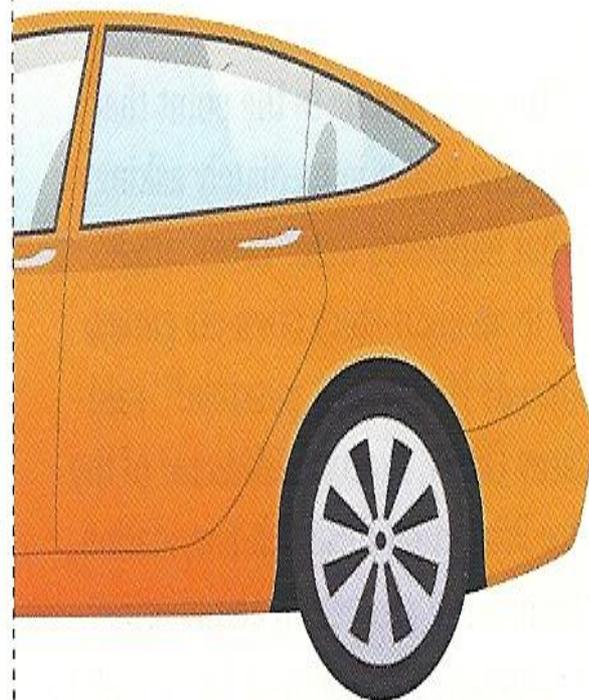
**770**

POUNDS OF  
PLASTIC  
MATERIAL

**COMPARED TO**

**440**

POUNDS IN  
2014





# Phoenix Fire Department Electronic Toxic Exposure Form Reporting Process

**Reminder:** The hard copy paper Toxic Exposure reporting forms are no longer being utilized. There are three ways to access and complete your electronic Toxic Exposure Form.

<b>Option 1: Toxic Exposure Reporting using a fire station computer</b>	<b>Option 2: Toxic Exposure Reporting from your home computer</b>	<b>Option 3: Toxic Exposure Reporting using your Cell Phone</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Log on to a Fire Department computer using YOUR login ID and password</li><li>2. Access the FireWire Web Page. If it is not your home page type in the following link in the search bar of your browser <a href="http://firewire/FireWireHome.aspx">http://firewire/FireWireHome.aspx</a></li><li>3. At the far upper right of the FireWire home page under <u>Links</u> click on the Red and White FirePoint icon </li><li>4. This will take you to the "pick an account" screen. Click on the first item in the listing this should be your Employee ID#@phoenix.gov</li><li>5. This will take you to the SharePoint/FirePoint web page</li><li>6. Scroll down to the bottom of the page under <u>Health Center</u> click on Toxic Exposure Form</li><li>7. Click on NEW ITEM</li><li>8. Complete all the required fields and "Save"</li><li>9. Your form will then be reviewed and completed by the Toxic Exposure officer and this form will become a permanent record that you can access at any time.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. From any computer type the following link into your web browser search field exactly as shown here. <a href="http://cityofphoenix.sharepoint.com/sites/fire/">http://cityofphoenix.sharepoint.com/sites/fire/</a></li><li>2. When prompted log in to Microsoft Office using your city of phoenix email address and password (example: <a href="mailto:john.smith@phoenix.gov">john.smith@phoenix.gov</a> + password)</li><li>3. Once you have access to the SharePoint/FirePoint web page scroll down to the bottom of the page under <u>Health Center</u> click on Toxic Exposure Form</li><li>4. Click on NEW ITEM</li><li>5. Complete all the required fields and "Save"</li><li>6. Your form will then be reviewed and completed by the Toxic Exposure officer and this form will become a permanent record that you can access at any time.</li></ol>	<p>To access the toxic exposure form on your cell phone please type the address below in your phones internet search browser and follow the prompts to log into Microsoft Share Point / Fire Point. You can then save this site to your favorites on your cellular device for faster log-in access.</p> <p><a href="http://cityofphoenix.sharepoint.com/sites/fire/">http://cityofphoenix.sharepoint.com/sites/fire/</a></p> <p>You can also scan the attached QR (Quick Response) code from your phone to gain access to Fire point.</p> 

- **Wear your PPE on ALL fires**
  - **Don't put your fire gear in:**  
*the cab, in the living and/or sleeping quarters/area area and don't take them home*
    - **Decon at the scene**
      - **Wipe down**
      - **Shower after fire**
        - **Wash gear**
  - **HAVE TWO SETS of GEAR**

**STOP  
CANCER AT  
THE DOOR!**



# Decision to destroy gear probably

By SKIP HESS  
The Indianapolis News

Warren Township Fire Department Safety Director Capt. Don Abbott made a decision last year that didn't win him a popularity contest among fellow firefighters.

And that's strange, considering Abbott's decision to destroy their protective gear may have prevented them from being seriously burned — even killed — at a later time.

"It wasn't a popular decision at the time, but in hindsight, it was the right decision," Abbott said this week.

Abbott was on the scene of a Sept. 21 fire at RAE Co., 2828 N. Webster Ave.

He and other veteran firefighters noticed unusual colors of some of the smoke.

"Obviously, something was burning other than wood and other (usual) products," said Abbott.

Abbott, who also serves as hazardous materials coordinator and training officer, suspected chemicals had contaminated the protective gear and other equipment.

When the fire was extinguished, officials learned that chemicals had spilled from containers and onto the burning floor. Labels on the containers were destroyed. The person who knew what chemicals were in which containers was company president Beth Burnett.

But Burnett was injured critically in the fire. She was taken to Wishard Hospital with burns over 25 percent of her body.

Abbott decided to have firefighters remove their gear at the scene. Some firefighters stripped off all clothing and washed their skin in portable showers at the fire site.

Twenty sets of gear — gloves, coats, helmets and other items

## WARREN TWP.

much of the gear, valued at \$1,000 a set, is owned by the firefighters.

Results of the lab tests were frightening.

The gear was saturated with chemicals which not only would have contaminated firefighters' bodies, but could have ignited, Abbott said.

"What we basically learned is that if we would have let people go back in (at a future fire) with their gear, they could have come back looking like toasted marshmallows," he said.

Abbott credits the Marion County Health & Hospital Corp.'s hazardous materials division with helping the department discover the contamination.

Four men who fought the RAE blaze from inside the building were contaminated and are still being monitored by department medical director Dr. Steve Smith. A few hours after the fire, the men began experiencing skin irritation, rashes, burning sensations and flu-type symptoms, said Abbott.

The symptoms stopped, but Abbott said Smith has continued to give them periodic blood tests. The monitoring will continue though March, he said.

Value of the destroyed equipment is \$30,000.

In addition to firefighters' gear, Abbott said breathing masks, communications equipment and hoses were destroyed.

Training officers have had to change their philosophy on the best ways to fight fires, he noted.

Firemen have been taught to stay low, even crawl, when they are inside buildings. But because more chemicals are being used



2015

**LEUKEMIA**

**It returned  
in 2018**

**NOW I need a liver  
transplant**



**FF have a 14%  
higher cancer rate than  
the general public**

**There is a 400%  
increase in skin  
absorption for every  
5 DEGREE  
INCREASE  
in body temperature**





# The National Firefighter Registry

*Key questions and answers about a critical new research initiative*

## **1. What is the National Firefighter Registry (NFR)?**

The NFR will be a large database of health and occupational information for firefighters that can be used to analyze and track the incidences of cancer and search for common links to help the public safety community, researchers, scientists and medical professionals find better ways to protect those who protect our communities.

With voluntary participation from firefighters, the privacy-protected National Firefighter Registry will include information about demographics, work assignment and exposure, and relevant health and medical details to monitor, track and improve our knowledge about cancer risks for firefighters, especially those linked to workplace exposures.

## **2. Why was the NFR created?**

Studies of cancer in firefighters, including a study published by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, found that firefighters may have a greater risk of some types of cancer. But many of these studies did not include volunteer firefighters or enough female and minority firefighters. NFR will add information on members of these groups, providing a broader cross-section between firefighters, and track more data from a larger sample of the firefighter population to gain greater insights into the connection of the firefighter occupation and cancer.

## **3. How will the NFR help firefighters?**

It will provide critical information needed to protect the health of firefighters. By learning more about the rate of cancer among firefighters, we might find that some groups of firefighters or response activities have a greater risk of cancer than others due to exposure, geography, gender or other factors. We also may learn more about certain protective measures that are associated with reducing the risk of cancer.

## **4. What is NIOSH?**

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is the part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention responsible for researching workplace illness and injury.

## **5. How do I enroll?**

Enrollment is not yet open, but there will be an opportunity in the near future for all firefighters to enroll. The target date to begin enrollment is the fall of 2020. NIOSH will keep their webpage updated as the enrollment period approaches.

## **6. Can a firefighter enroll if they have never had cancer?**

Yes. In fact, cancer-free firefighters are just as critical to making the NFR a success as those who have cancer. NIOSH would like all firefighters to be part of the NFR, not just those who have cancer

or other illnesses. Anyone who has ever been a firefighter should join the NFR. This means all active and retired firefighters, including volunteer, paid-on-call, part time and career firefighters are strongly encouraged to join the NFR.

## **7. Do firefighters have to join the NFR?**

No. Being part of the NFR is completely voluntary, and no one can make a firefighter join. NIOSH needs your consent for you to be part of the NFR. However, participation is strongly encouraged, because it will help improve the health and safety of the firefighter community today and in the future. The NFR is your opportunity to leave a legacy for those who follow you.

## **8. How will the data be collected?**

We will collect information from firefighters through web-based surveys, well-known exposure tracking applications and fire department records after obtaining consent from each firefighter. Long term, NIOSH will monitor potential cancer diagnoses for firefighters enrolled in the NFR by linking information with state cancer registries.

## **9. Do firefighters need to contact NIOSH if they have cancer?**

No. NIOSH will be able to track information related to cancer by linking individual firefighters' information with state cancer registries. Firefighters should consult with their doctor if they have any concerns about their health and to ensure that, if you are diagnosed with cancer of any kind, you are entered into your state cancer registry.

## **10. How will the registry be used?**

Data from the NFR will be matched with information from national and state databases to track cancer cases or find out about causes of death among firefighters. Researchers will use these data to compare the risk of cancer among firefighters to that of the rest of the U.S. population.

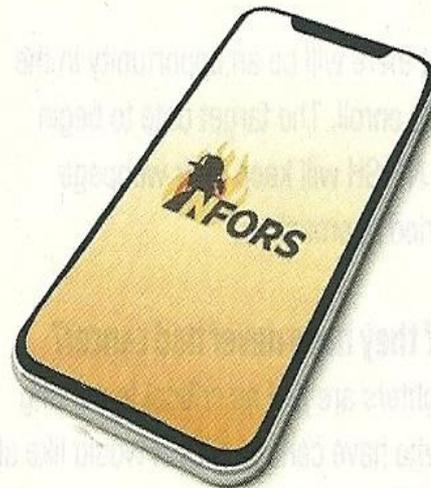
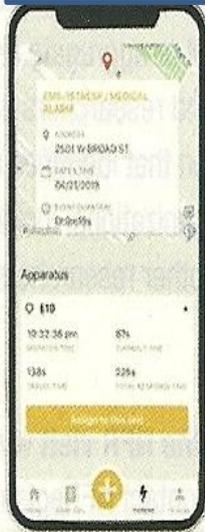
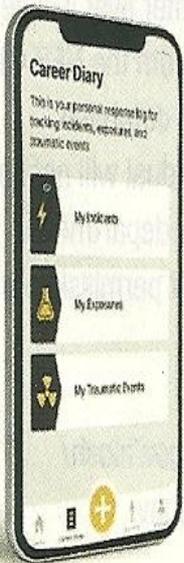
## **11. Will NIOSH share information collected for the NFR?**

No personal information about any individual firefighter ever will be shared. However, the overall or aggregate findings from the NFR will be shared with the public and researchers using the database.

To repeat, any information that identifies an individual will not be shared with any outside organizations, including fire departments, unions, elected officials or other researchers without permission of the registry participant.

**For more information on the NFR visit** [www.cdc.gov/niosh/firefighters/health.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/firefighters/health.html) or contact [NFRRegistry@cdc.gov](mailto:NFRRegistry@cdc.gov).

# NFRegistry@cdc.gov



Firefighters can start tracking their exposures automatically in the National Fire Operations Reporting System (NFORS) Exposure Tracker available now and downloadable free from app stores. The NFORS Exposure Tracker is a private data gathering tool that creates a career diary for individual firefighters.

**“I urge you, for your family’s sake, if you think something is wrong, get checked OUT”**



**2021**  
**PROJECT**  
**MAYDAY**  
**CAREER**  
**2015-2020**

# PROJECT MAYDAY



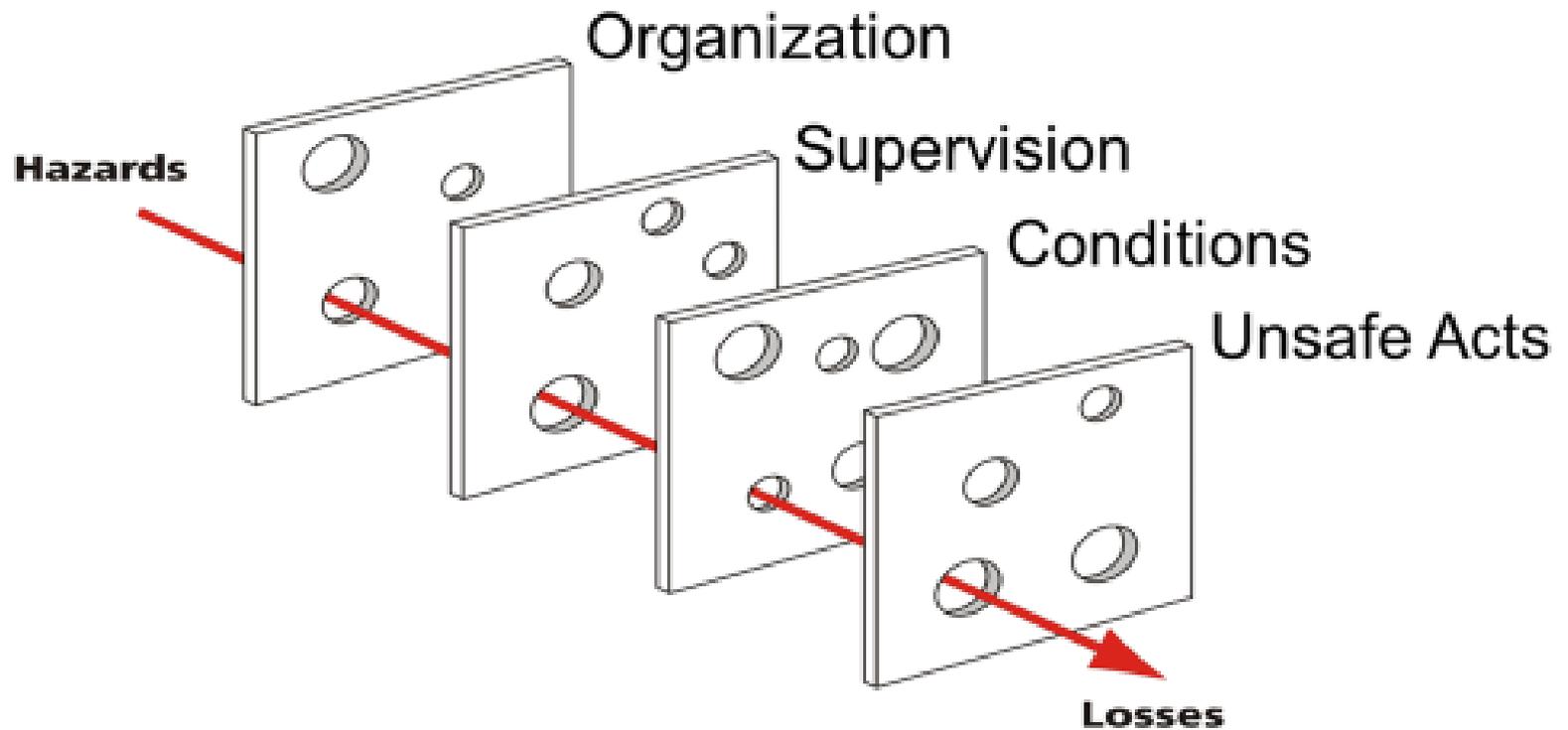
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“You will be missed,  
Chief Cool Command”

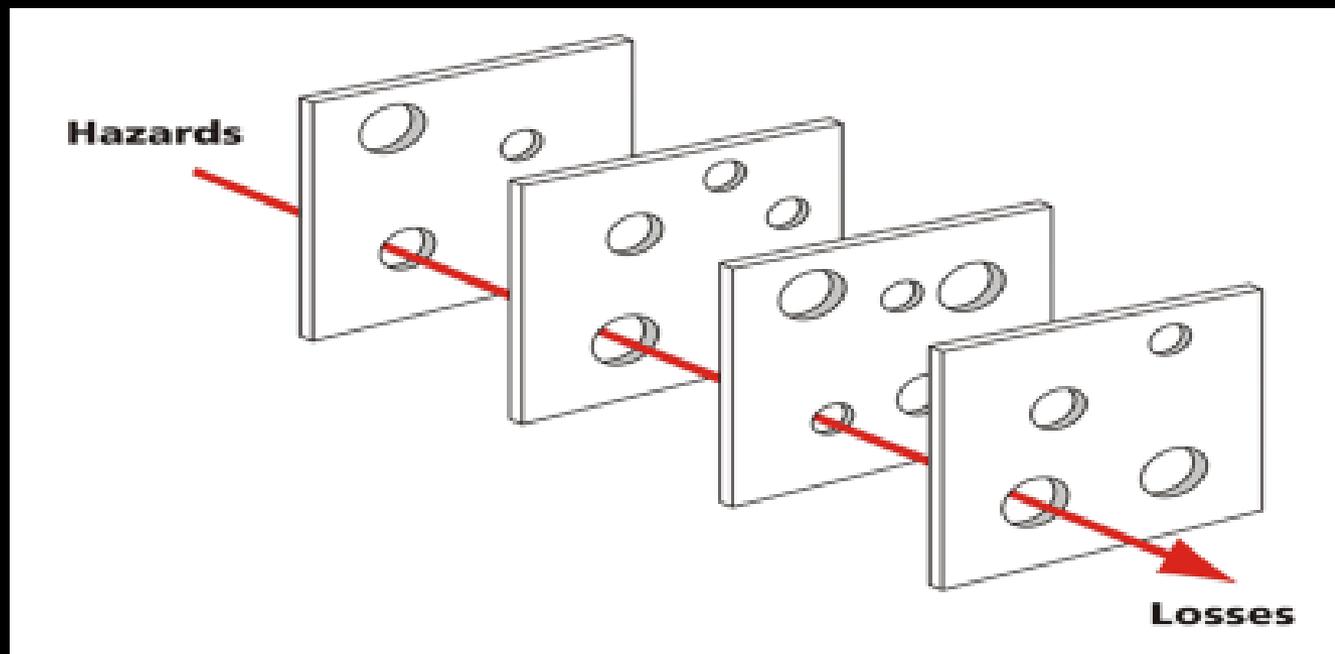
# Concepts “Cumulative Act Effect” (1990)

University of Manchester



## Errors

- *Critical* ... Difficult to recover from, (30-75 seconds)
- *Serious* ..... Need to fix issue to *evacuate* (60 to 180 seconds)
- *Minor* ..... Can be overcome with changes in strategy/ tactics, additional resources



**“Mayday” Victim ..... 36%**  
**Company Officer ..... 25%**  
**Incident Commander ..... 21%**  
**Other firefighters, etc. .... 19%**

**(4,236)**

# UNSAFE ACTS

## ERRORS

Decision Errors

Skilled Base Errors

Perceptual Errors

Risk Assessment During Operations

Task Misprioritization

Decision Making During Operation

Procedural Error

Error Due To Misperception

## VIOLATIONS

Routine Violations

Exceptional Violations

Violations of SOP/SOG, Orders, Regulations

Lack of Discipline

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## ERRORS

Decision Errors

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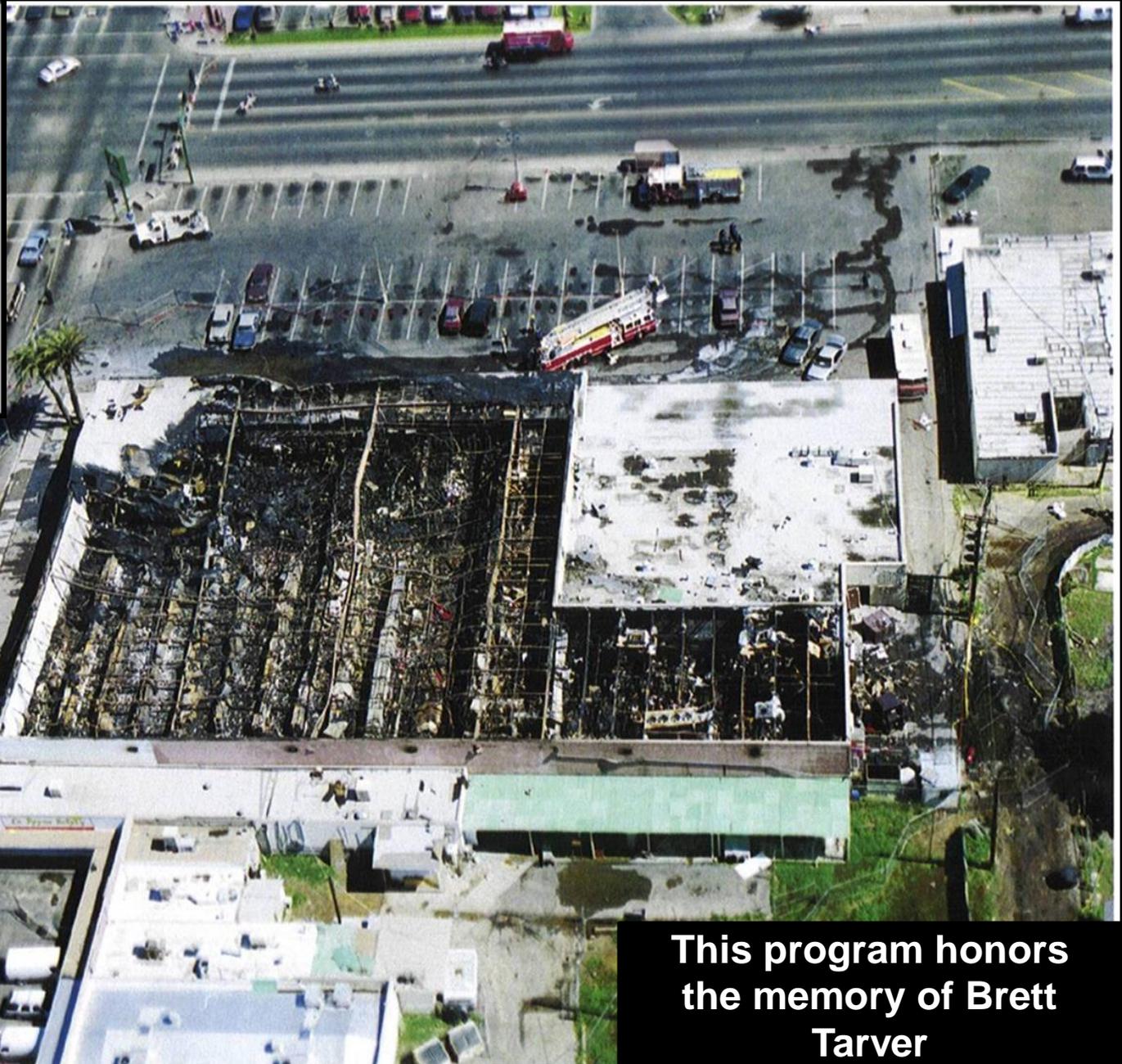
Lack of Discipline

**Final Report**

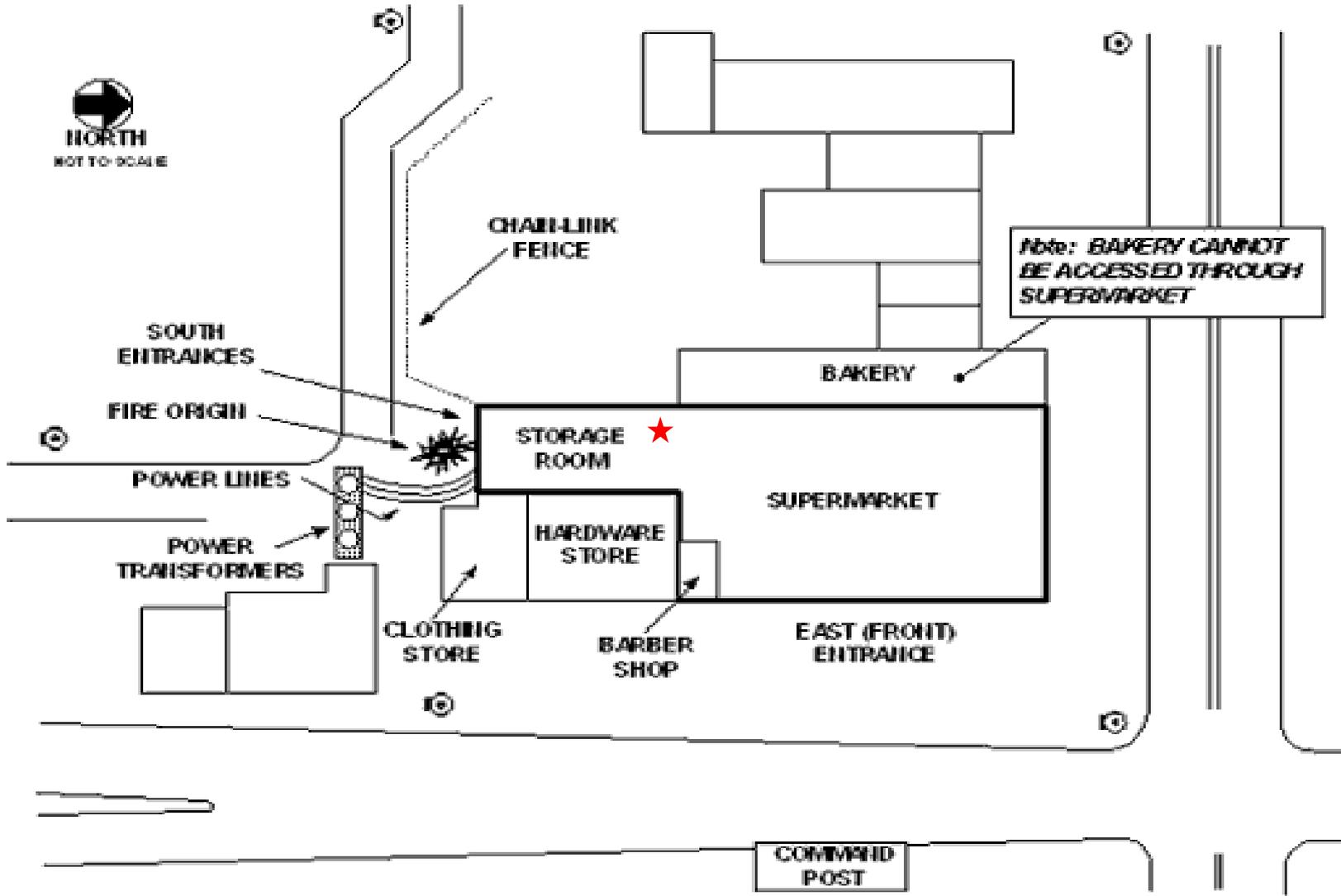
Southwest Supermarket Fire  
35th Avenue and  
McDowell Road  
March 14, 2001  
Incident #01-045301



Phoenix Fire Department  
130 South 12 Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85033  
March 12, 2002

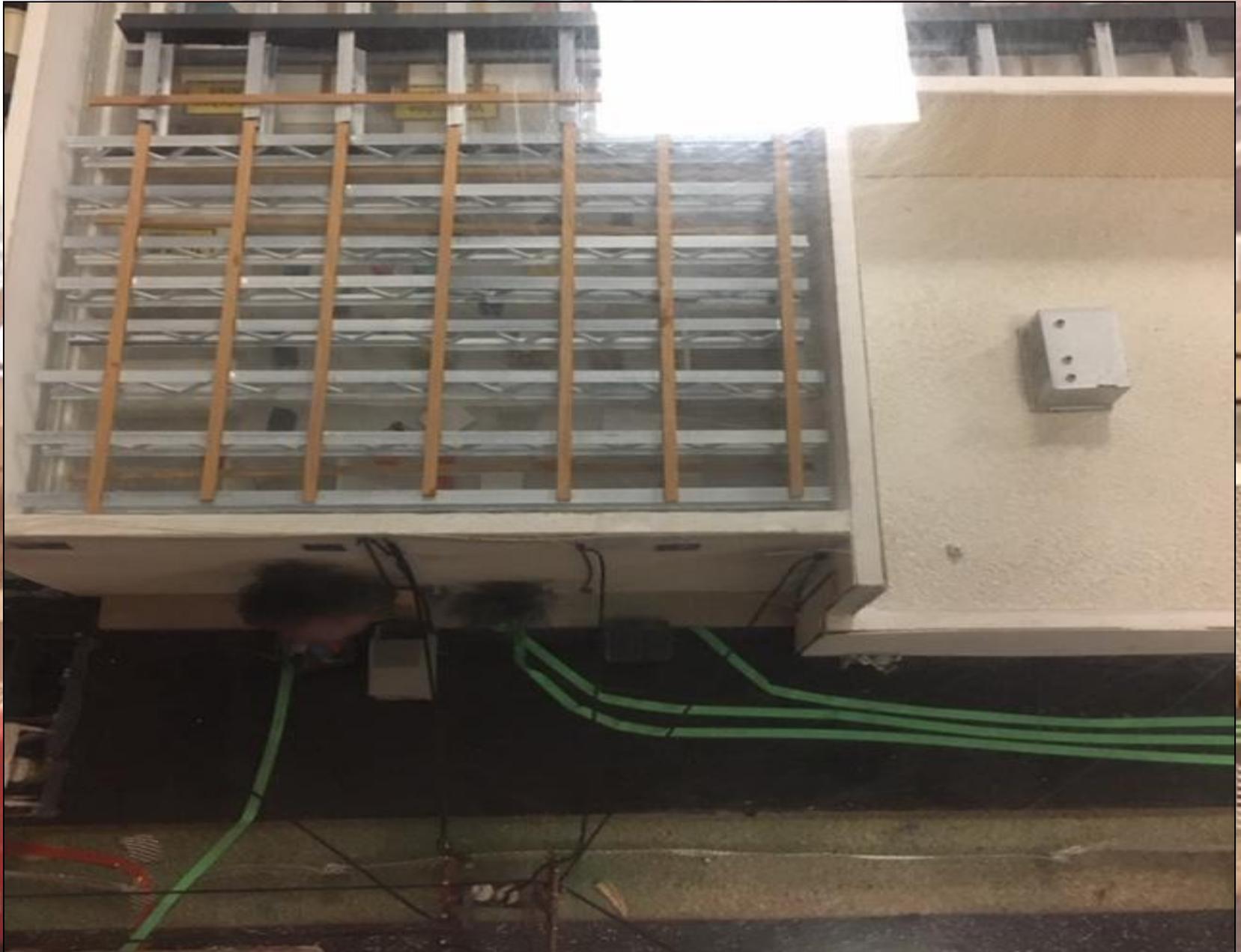


**This program honors  
the memory of Brett  
Tarver**



*Note: BAKERY CANNOT BE ACCESSED THROUGH SUPERMARKET*

COMMAND POST



MAIN STORAGE ROOM AND  
CONTENTS NEGOTIATED BY  
RESCUE CREWS DURING THE  
REMOVAL OF THE VICTIM AND  
INJURED FIRE FIGHTER #1

MAN-DOOR

STEEL ROLL-  
UP DOOR

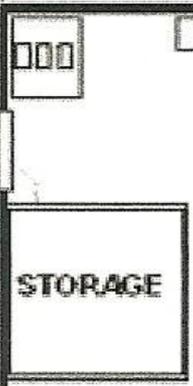
NORTH  
↓

FOOD ITEMS, ETC.

6-FOOT-WIDE  
STEEL ROLL-UP  
DOOR

SOUTH  
ENTRANCES

3-FOOT-WIDE  
STEEL  
MAIL-DOOR



MAIL STORAGE AREA

PRODUCE STORAGE  
AREA

MEAT  
COOLER

MEAT PREPARATION ROOM

BARBER  
SHOP

MAIL SUPERMARKET

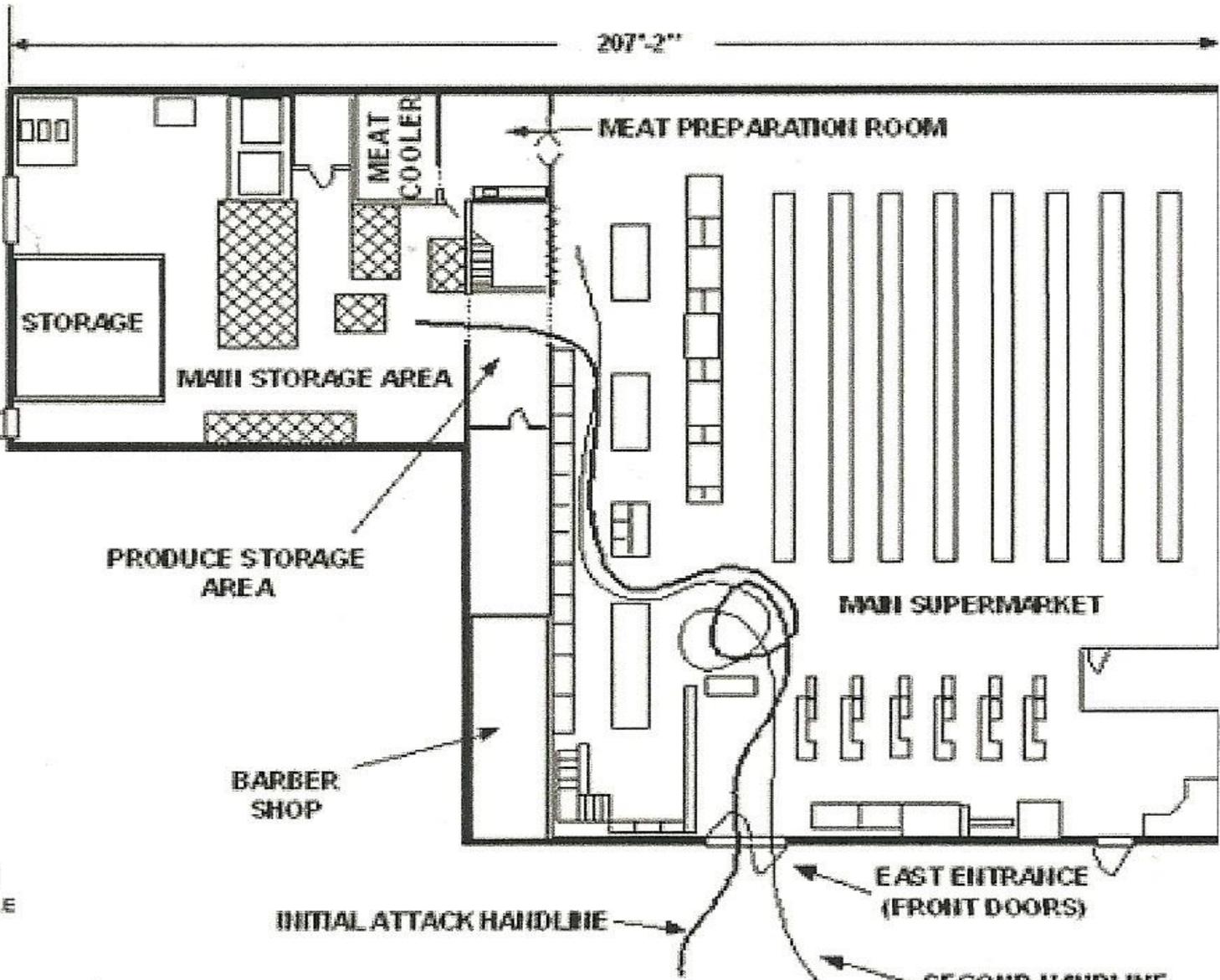
EAST ENTRANCE  
(FRONT DOORS)

INITIAL ATTACK HANDLINE

SECOND HANDLINE

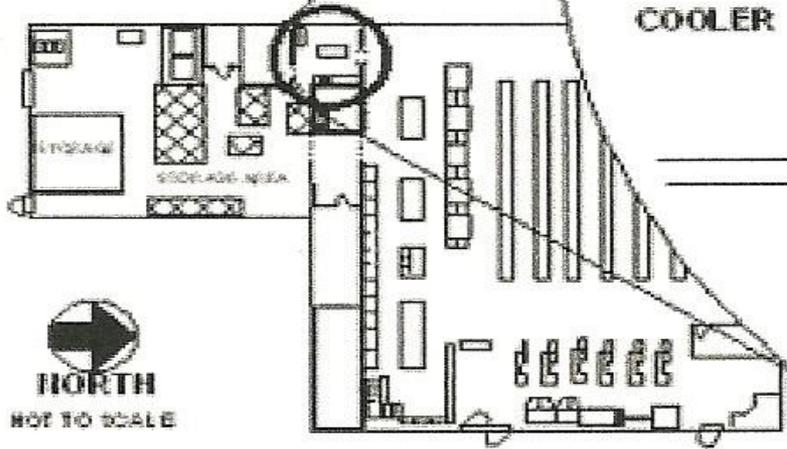


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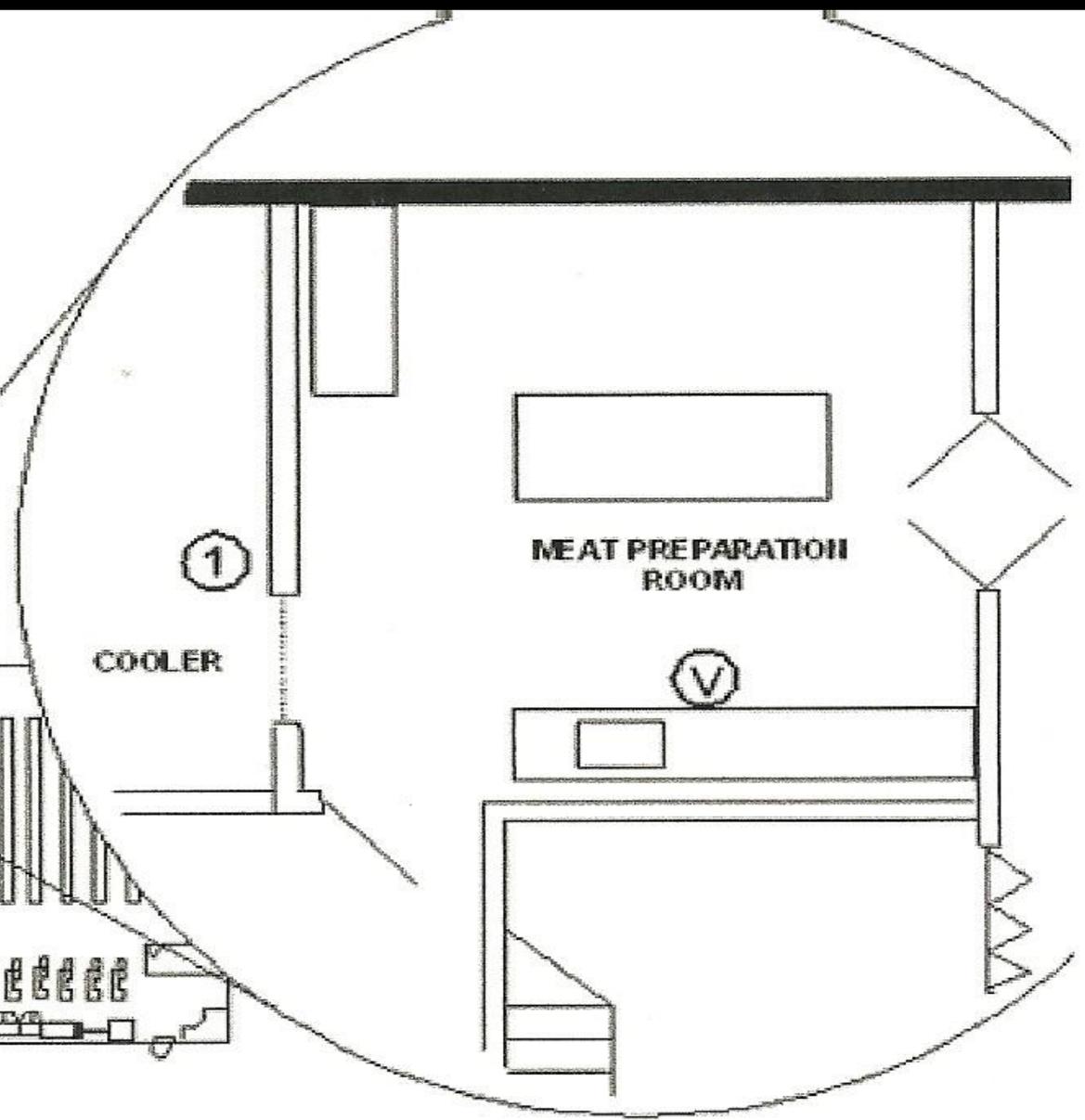


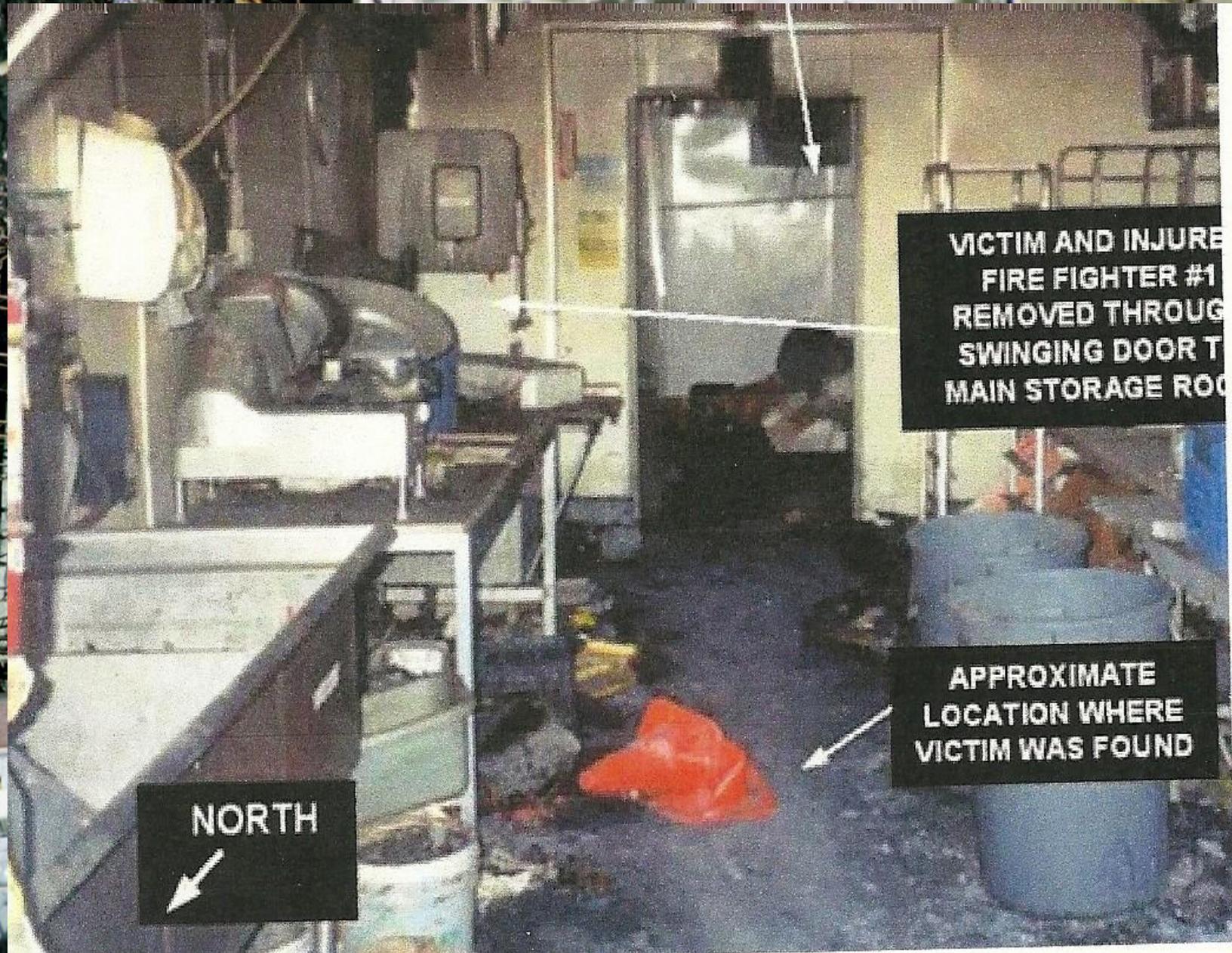
**KEY**

- (V)** LOCATION OF VICTIM WHEN FOUND
- (1)** LOCATION OF INJURED FIRE FIGHTER #1 WHEN FOUND



**NORTH**  
NOT TO SCALE





**NORTH**  
↙

**VICTIM AND INJURED  
FIRE FIGHTER #1  
REMOVED THROUGH  
SWINGING DOOR TO  
MAIN STORAGE ROOM**

**APPROXIMATE  
LOCATION WHERE  
VICTIM WAS FOUND**





- **1700hrs** ...E24 arrives, smoke coming from Southside of the structure. E-24 CAPT. Assume IC (unaware structure is L shaped)
- Outside fire quickly moves into the attic area
- **1707hrs**...E-3 arrives made RIT, reports heavy smoke 4 ft from the ceiling
- **1711hrs**... E-14/R-3 advance hose through roll-up door Southside of structure
- **1714hrs**...E-14 reports heavy black smoke to the floor in the storage area
- **1715hrs**...B-4
- **1716hrs**...T-14 report roof ventilated (6ft square)
- **1726hrs**...E-14 reports ceiling collapse, E-14 CAPT reports low-air alarm, E-14 exiting the structure, FF (2) become disoriented, got off the hose line, became lost. Both FFs low-alarm goes off, MAYDAY call delayed by 3-4 minutes.

- 1732hrs...E21 reports finding the victim (misunderstood) follow them out, collapses (respiratory arrest)
- 1734hrs... RIT-1 / RIT – 2, hear PASS unit but cannot locate (low air alarm) (1 MAYDAY)
- 1739hrs... RIT-3/ RIT-4, hear PASS unit, find SCBA, but NO FF (low air) (2 – MAYDAYS)
- 1741hrs... RIT-5 /RIT-6, find TRAVER, standing-up ..... walks away (2 MAYDAYS)
- 1746hrs...RIT-7/ RIT-8, locate TRAVER, unconscious respiratory arrest/ no pulse, begin to remove TRAVER (fire coat). (1 – MAYDAY)
- 1750hrs...RIT-9 / RIT -10 assistance, TRAVER is removed ... 1756hrs

Lots of free-lancing, not enough informative communications







Granite Mountain

3-3

Prescott Fire

Interagency Hot Shot Crew



### Ed Shaw Memorial

A long-time resident of the Shaw-Mark area, Ed Shaw was a member of the local community. He was a dedicated volunteer and a passionate outdoorsman. He was instrumental in the development of the Shaw-Mark area and was a key figure in the establishment of the Shaw-Mark area. He was a true pioneer and a true leader.

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# PROJECT MAYDAY

**A forensic study focused on  
saving lives, through research  
and learning**

**The “MAYDAY” Project is a comprehensive study of “mayday” incidents, responses, and prevention. Funded for one year (2015) by a private foundation grant to:**

**CERT**

**Command Emergency Response  
Training, Glendale, Arizona  
Don & Bev Abbott**

**Dr. J. Bebermeier  
Statistics & Analytics**

**Dr. A. Grisson  
Cardiologist**

**Dr. A. McCourtee  
Sleep Deprivation  
Specialist**

**Dr. G. Grant Capt/Dr. P. Stuart  
Physiologist**

**Dr. M. Walker  
Epidemiologist**

**Dr. L. McNeil  
Audiologist**

**L. Watson  
Radio Specialist**

**G. Stovish  
SCBA Specialist**

**Participation in this project is voluntary and confidential, department names or individual names are not released or used in this project without their written permission.**

**We thank all these departments, Chiefs, Officers and Firefighters for their time and interest in furthering firefighter safety.**

In the Fire Service, we get *lucky* every day. Sometimes, even in the worst of conditions, things turn out all right. But, at *Project Mayday* our phone rings every day. Every day we hear about a firefighter somewhere who wasn't so lucky.

What would it look like to actually manage risk? How much better could we be in our decision-making? What actions can we perform to identify threats, assess vulnerabilities, and predict consequences? What if we didn't leave everything to luck?

Better risk management begins with a *Change in culture.*

# Mayday Project Surveys

**Component 1: Survey of department information; organization, number members, apparatus, runs, response type/numbers, SOPs, and training.**

**(96 questions)**

**Component 2: Upon the completion of Component 1, Component 2 will be sent, it deals with all the identified components of your Mayday, size-up, critical factors, IAP, communications, response, etc.**

**(177 questions)**

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**Component 3: Upon completion of Component 2, Component 3 will be sent, it deals with the department's handling post action response, critique, follow-up Training, etc.  
(84 questions)**

***“In order for a firefighter to survive the dangers of firefighting, he must know how other firefighters have died or been seriously injured.”***

**Vinny Dunn, Deputy Chief FDNY (ret.)**

**We hope that this “Mayday Project” will be the most complete informational analysis on “maydays” ever conducted and proven recommendations on communications, command/operations, response, training, and follow-up.**

**We have a twenty-four person Advisory Board that is preparing a “Project Mayday” Report with recommendations for prevention, training, response and follow-up.**

**We hope that this “Mayday Project” will be the most complete informational analysis on “maydays” ever conducted and proven recommendations on communications, command/operations, response, training, and follow-up.**

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*“Mayday, Mayday, Mayday”*

**RED IN ERT**

**PERSONAL EMERGENCY**

**TERMINOLOGY**

**NFPA 1500**

**10 - 101 - 472 - 473 - 475 - 1001 - 1002 - 1003  
1006 - 1021 - 1051 - 1071 - 1221 - 1051 -  
1071 - 1221 - 1403 - 1404 - 1521 - 1561 - 1581  
1582 - 1583 - 1670 - 1700 - 1851 - 1852 - 1901  
1906 - 1911 - 1912 - 1925 - 1931 - 1932 - 1936  
1951 - 1952 - 1961 - 1962 - 1964 - 1971 - 1975  
1977 - 1981 - 1982 - 1983 - 1984 - 1989 - 1991  
- 1992 - 1994 - 1999 - 3000**

## **MAYDAY ....**

**“The term *mayday* should not be used for fire ground communications in that it could cause confusion with the term used for aeronautical and nautical emergencies”**

**(NFPA 1500-45,8.2.3) 2007**

**Instead use the (past tense) we should use terms like “firefighter down, firefighter missing, or firefighter trapped”**

**(NFPA 1500, Appendix A.8.2.3) 2013**

**Maydays for “life-threatening situations” and provides examples of “lost or missing member an SCBA malfunction or loss of air, a member seriously injured or incapacitated, member trapped or entangled or any life-threatening situation that cannot be immediately resolved.**

**NFPA 1500 ....**

**Defines mayday readiness “as the ability to donn, doff, and manipulate the SCBA in zero visibility while wearing firefighters gloves.”**

**MAYDAY ....**

**anytime a firefighter(s) cannot safely exit a IDLH hazard zone.**

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**MAYDAY,  
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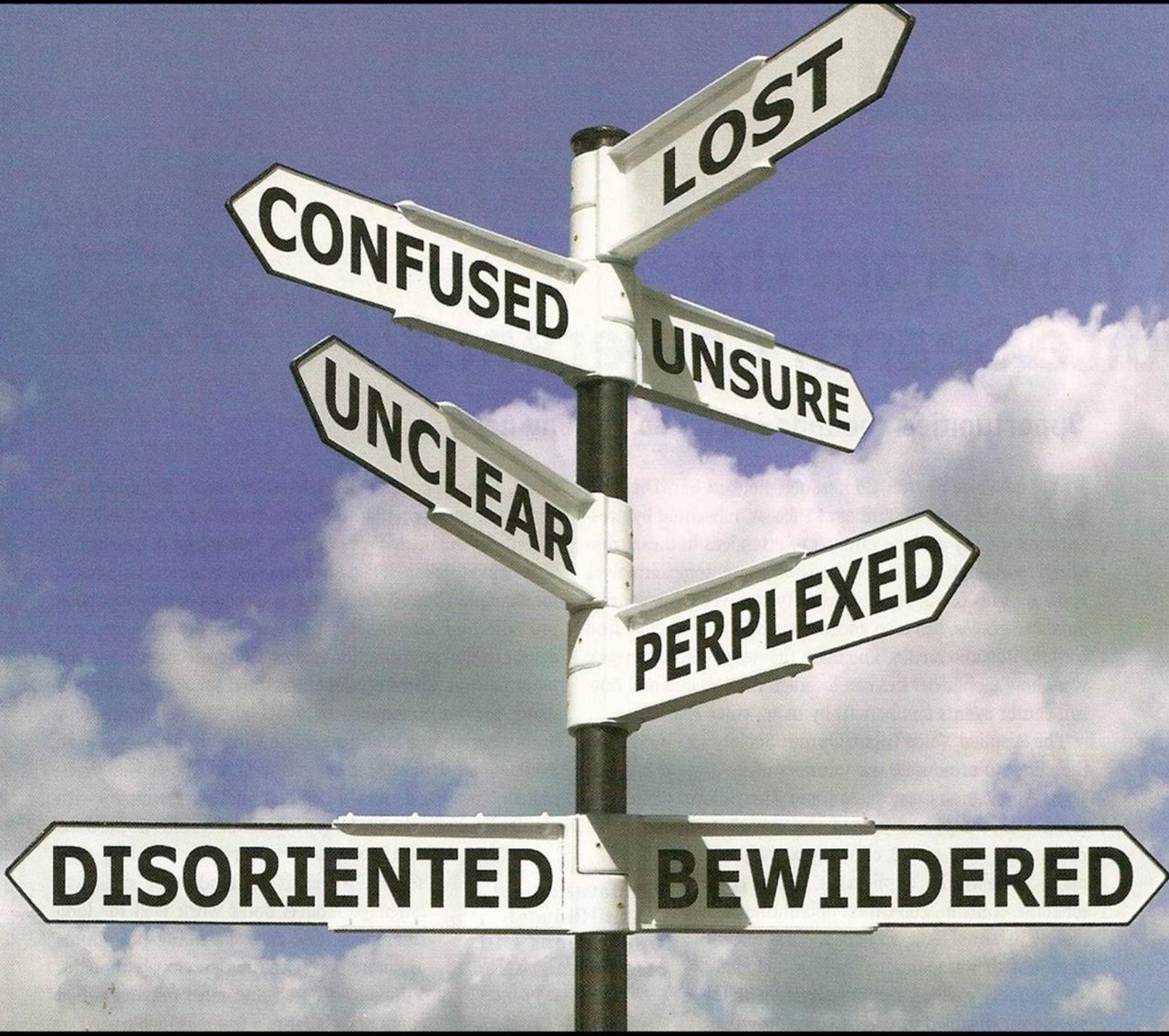
**Shut-Up,  
Shut-Up,  
Shut-Up**

**Initiation or transmission of a firefighter distress signal, “Mayday, Mayday, Mayday” produces more stress and potential chaos than any other single type of incident we may encounter throughout our careers.**

**A trapped or disoriented firefighter has two factors working against them.**

- 1) Limited air supply and, 2) flame impingement barring the fact that direct physical trauma is not involved.**

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**LOST**

**CONFUSED**

**UNSURE**

**UNCLEAR**

**PERPLEXED**

**DISORIENTED**

**BEWILDERED**



Larger Homes



Open Spaces



Evolving Fuel Loads



Void Spaces



Changing Bldg.  
Materials



Smaller Lots



New Technologies



- **Faster fire propagation**
- **Shorter time to flashover**
- **Rapid changes in fire dynamics**
- **Shorter escape time**
- **Shorter time to collapse**
- **Exposure problems**
- **New and Unknown hazards**

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# **FIREFIGHTER SAFETY RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

UL's FSRI is dedicated to increasing firefighter knowledge to reduce injuries and deaths in the fire service and in the communities they serve.



2006 DHS Grant 2007 DHS Grant 2008 DHS Grant 2009 DHS Grant **2010 DHS Grant** 2011 DHS Grant Attic Fire  
**Basement Fire** Basement Fires Chicago Fire Department Dimensional Lumber Door Control Engineered Lumber  
Exterior Fire <sup>FDIC</sup> **FDNY Fire** **Dynamics** Firefighter Smoke Exposure firehouse expo fire protection engineering fire service Flashover Furniture  
**Governor's Island** Horizontal Ventilation **Legacy** Legacy Home Lightweight Construction **Modern**  
Modern Home **NIST** Overhaul Photovoltaic PV systems shock Smoke Smoke Particulate solar panels  
**Structural Collapse** **Suppression** tactics **Training** **Ventilation** vertical



**NIST**  
**National Institute of  
Standards and Technology**  
U.S. Department of Commerce

## Fire Fighter Key Points

Some important points to remember regarding fire dynamics are:

- The stages of fire development change when a fire becomes ventilation-limited; it is common with today's fire environment to have a decay period prior to flashover, which emphasizes the importance of ventilation and its timing.
- The absence of visible smoke means nothing! A common event noted during the experiments was that once the fire became ventilation-limited, the smoke being forced out of the gaps of the houses greatly diminished or stopped altogether. No smoke showing during the size-up should increase awareness of the potential conditions inside.
- Structural collapse should always be considered in your size-up. All residential floors can collapse in your operational time frame, especially with an unprotected engineered floor system.

# **FLOW PATH**

- Improving the inlet and/or exhaust paths from the seat of the fire will result in fire growth and spread.
- Interrupting the fire flow path by limiting or controlling the inlet or controlling the outlet can limit fire growth.
- Controlling the door—keeping doors closed allows less oxygen into the fire and equals lower temperatures.
- Anyone in the exhaust portion of the flow path—between the fire and the direction of its travel—is in a high hazard location.
- Controlling the flow path improves victim survivability.

Courtesy of NIST.

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**OKOK! I'LL CALL A MAYDAY...**

**MAYDAY MAYDAY**

**MAYDAY**

**MAYDAY**

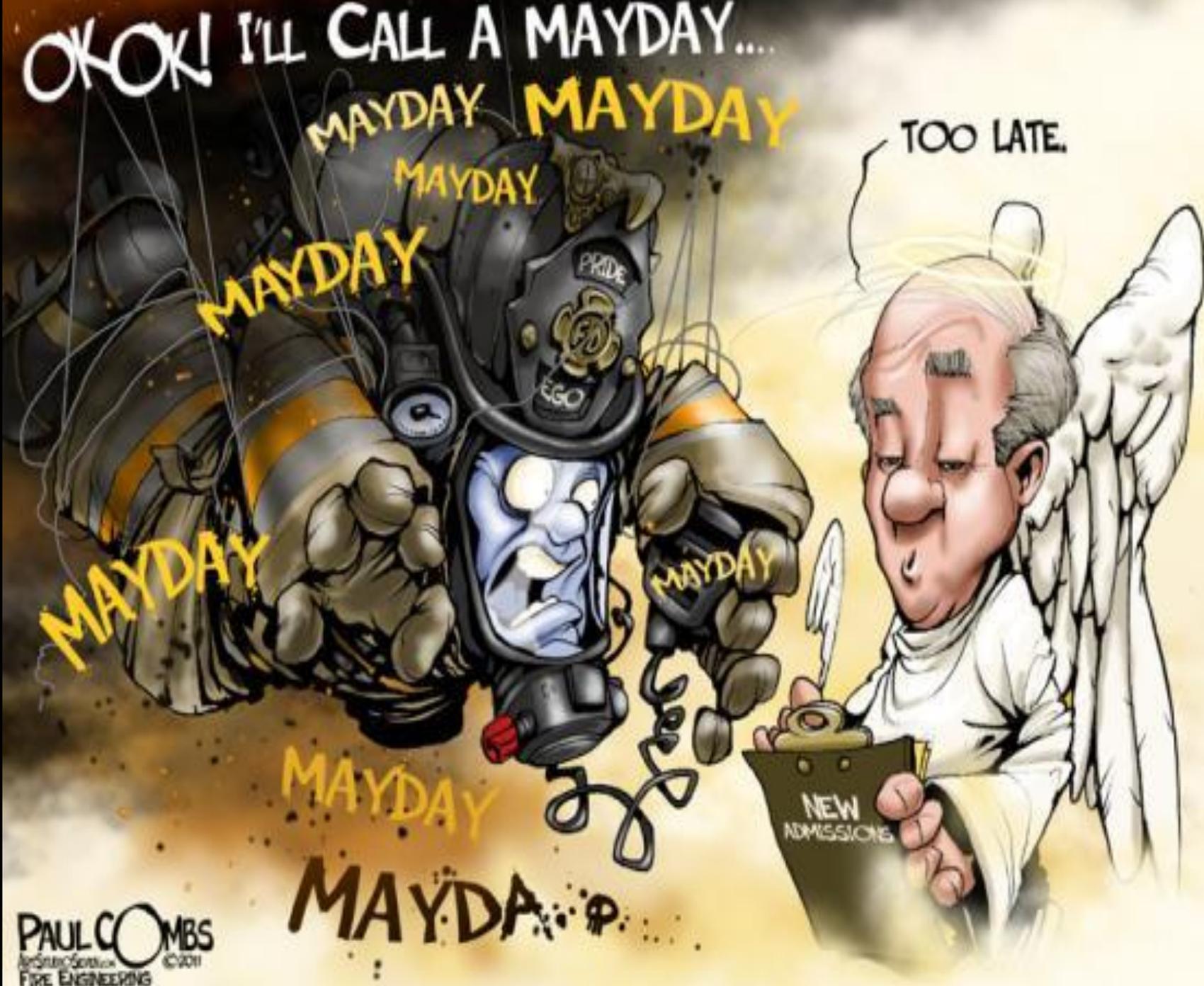
**MAYDAY**

**MAYDAY**

**MAYDAY**

**MAYDAY**

**TOO LATE.**



**PAUL COMBS**  
Fire Engineering ©2011

# “MAYDAY” PROJECT



***“Mayday, Mayday, Mayday”***

**RED ALERT**

**PERSONAL EMERGENCY**

**2015-2021  
72 months  
CAREER**

**“Mayday” reports from 12,851 career fire departments representing 50 states**

**Completed Components**

*(December 31, 2021)*

**Component 1: 12,585 departments**

**Component 2: 12,227 department**

**Component 3: 9,727 departments**

## *MAYDAY FD Information*

**“Project Mayday” has accumulated 11,826 radio traffic audio and 2,341 dash/video tapes, confirming almost all of our information and data, along with tactical worksheets, notes, dispatch logs, SOPs, mayday training information, follow-up reports, internal investigation documents**



**NOT  
ALL  
MAYDAYS  
ARE CREATED  
EQUAL**





**“There is a tendency  
to believe that since  
a certain practice has  
thus far not killed us,  
that it is an  
acceptable practice”**

**Capt. John Peters**

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Courtesy of DeMaria Design Associates / Christian Kienapfel

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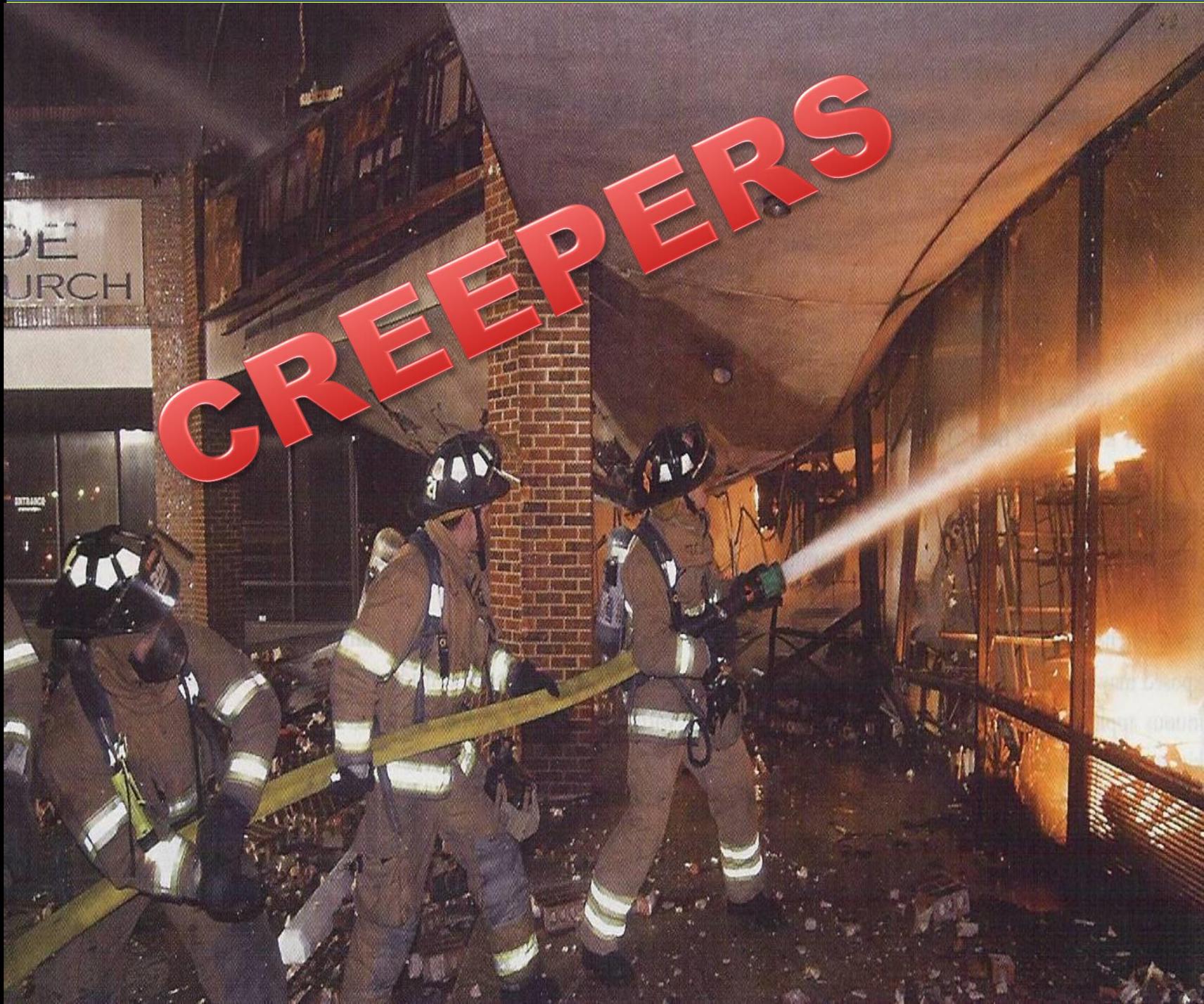


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**CREEPERS**



# **REMEMBER**

**Whatever you allow to happen,  
without intervention is your ...**

**“STANDARD OF CARE”**

PROJECT  
MAYDAY



**NIOSH**  
Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation  
and Prevention Program

## Death in the line of duty...

January 15, 2003

A summary of a NIOSH fire fighter fatality investigation

**First-Floor Collapse During Residential Basement Fire Claims the Life of Two Fire  
Fighters (Career and Volunteer) and Injures a Career Fire Fighter Captain - New York**



**NIOSH**  
Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation  
and Prevention Program

## Death in the line of duty...

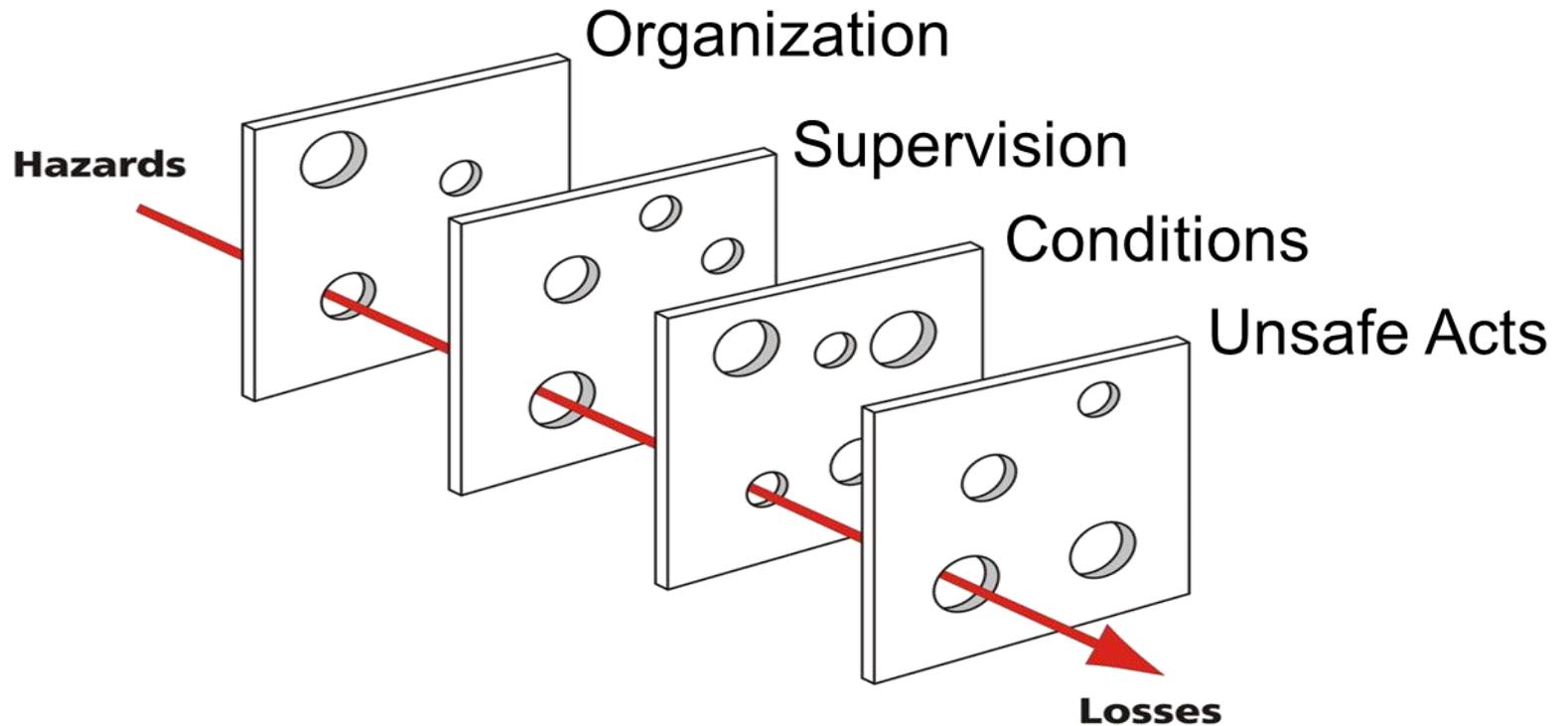
February 28, 2002

A summary of a NIOSH fire fighter fatality investigation

**Career Fire Fighter Dies After Falling Through the Floor Fighting  
a Structure Fire at a Local Residence - Ohio**

# Concepts “Cumulative Act Effect” (1990)

University of Manchester



**Fire  
Department  
“MAYDAY”  
Profiles**

**“MAYDAY”  
Information  
Data**

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# **DEPLOYMENT**

**“MAYDAY” Information Data**

**TIME OF DAY  
“MAYDAY”**

**CAREER  
2015-2021**

**0001 – 0300**

**3,891**

**29.5%**

**0301 – 0600**

**2,884**

**23.5%**

**0601 – 0900**

**1,558**

**12.7%**

**0901 – 1200**

**606**

**4.9%**

**1201 – 1500**

**417**

**3.4%**

**1501 – 1800**

**463**

**3.2%**

**1801 – 2100**

**825**

**6.7%**

**2101 - 2400**

**1,579**

**13%**

# “MAYDAY” Information Data Units Involved in Mayday

## Units Involved in *Maydays*

1st Unit .....	57%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Unit .....	26%
3rd Unit .....	14%
4th Unit .....	2%
5th Unit .....	1%
6th Unit .....	.1%
7th Unit .....	0%

## Units Involved in *Maydays*

Engines .....	54%
Ladders .....	44.5%
Rescues .....	1%
EMS Unit .....	.5%

### **TRUCK COMPANY OPERATIONS**

**10% of the Fire Service  
40% of the MAYDAYS**

**Component 2: On-Scene Information**

**Number of Apparatus on the Scene at the time of the Mayday**

<b><u>Engines:</u></b>		<b><u>Ladders:</u></b>		<b><u>Rescues:</u></b>		<b><u>Batt.Chiefs:</u></b>	
2 ...	39%	1 ...	79%	1 ...	77%	1 ...	86%
3 ...	33%	2...	19%	2 ...	33%	2 ...	12%
4 ...	24%	3 ...	2%			3 ...	2%
5 ...	7%						
6 ...	1%						

**Component 2: On-Scene Information**

**Number of FF on the scene at the time of the Mayday**

9 – 15	.....	<b>24%</b>
16 – 22	...	<b>33%</b>
23 – 29	...	<b>26%</b>
30 – 36	...	<b>11%</b>
37 – 42	...	<b>3%</b>
43 >	...	<b>2%</b>

# SHIFT OPERATION

## Work Shift FD - Career:

24hr/48hr+ Shift ..... 81%  
48hr/+ Shift ..... 17%  
Misc. Shift ..... 2%

## PM Career FD Shift Schedule MD:

25hr Shift (6,514) ..... 53.2%  
48hrShift + (3,895) ..... 30%  
Other (277) ..... 2.2%  
Overtime (1,591) ..... 12.9%

## Work Shift – Overtime:

24 / 48hr Shift (6,847) .... 55.7%  
48hrs + Shift (5,430) ..... 54.3%

## 24hr Shift Schedule-MD

1<sup>st</sup> 12hrs (941) ..... 14.4%  
2<sup>nd</sup> 12hrs 5,573() ... 77%

## 48hrs / + Shift Schedule-MD

1<sup>st</sup> 12hrs (384) ..... 9.8 %  
2<sup>nd</sup> 12hrs (803) ..... 20.6%  
3<sup>rd</sup> 12hrs (227) ..... 5.3%  
4<sup>th</sup> 12hrs (2,502) ..... 64.2 %

**Crew Size:**

- **2 persons ..... 29%**
- **3 persons ..... 41%**
- **4 persons ..... 30%**

**12,277**

## “MAYDAY” Elapsed Time When Maydays Occur

After marking on the scene .... 4min 45sec...

< 10 mins	71	.5%
10 – 15 mins	743	6%
15 - 20 mins	1,606	13.1%
<b>20 – 25 mins</b>	<b>2,337</b>	<b>19.1%</b>
<b>25 - 30 mins</b>	<b>2,125</b>	<b>17.3%</b>
<b>30 - 35 mins</b>	<b>1,890</b>	<b>15.4%</b>
35 – 40 mins	1,349	11%
40 - 45 mins	1,192	9.7%
45 - 55 mins	623	5%
> 55 mins	261	2.1%

**12,227**

**ASSUMPTION,  
CONFIRMATION,  
and  
POSITIONING  
of  
COMMAND**

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**Its not a matter of  
if a fire fighter  
has a MAYDAY...**

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**ITS  
WHEN**

## Component 2: Size-Up / Initial Radio Report

### *CAREER DEPARTMENTS*

**Size Up / Initial Radio Report: (12,277)**

**360: NO 360: 49%**  
Incomplete: 21%  
Completed: 30%+

**When 360 completed:**

- Confirm size ..... 94%
- Life Safety issues ..... 87%
- Significant Hazards ..... 82%
- Smoke and Fire from New Location ..... 43%
- Changes in original Strategy ..... 22%

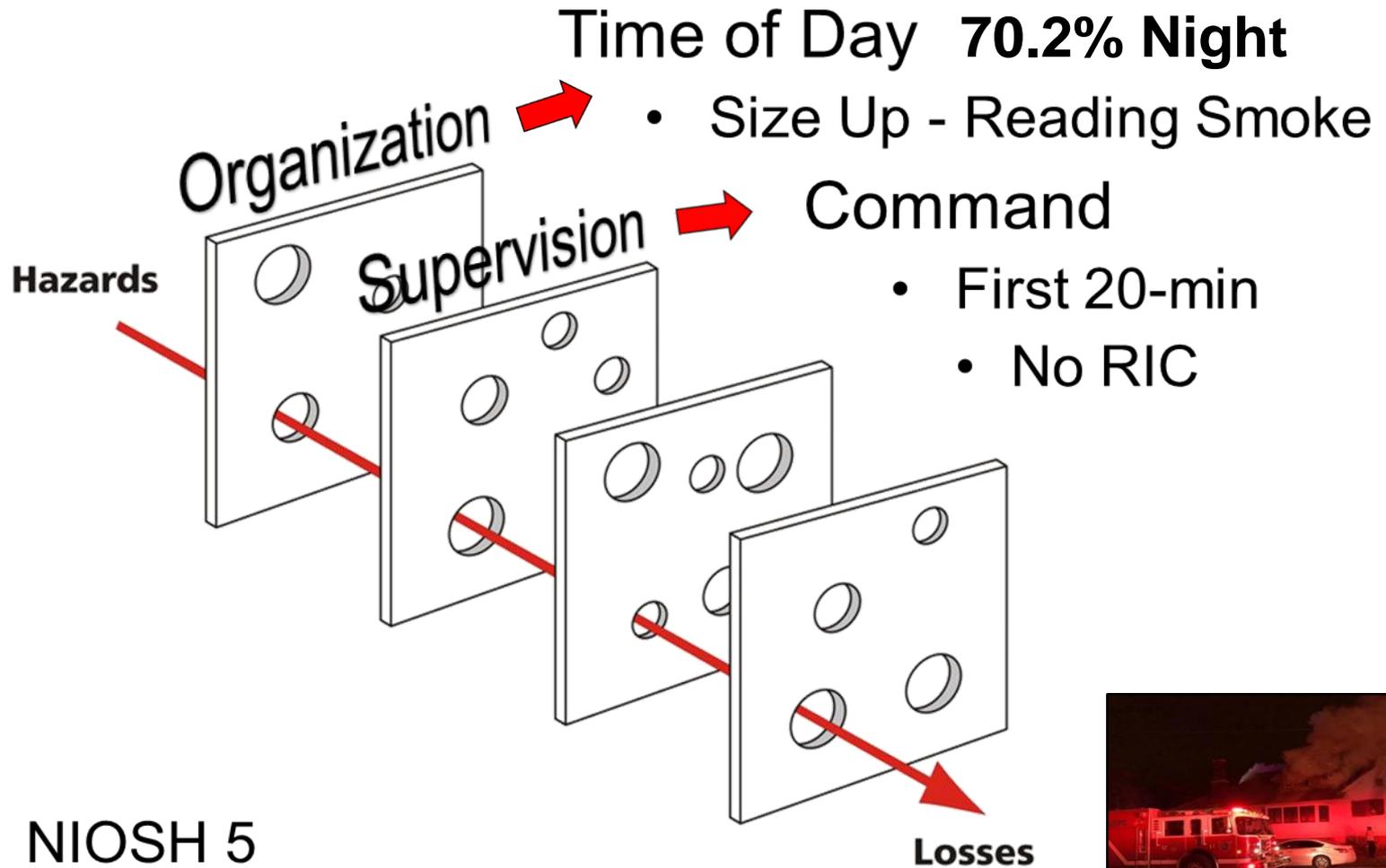
**2015-2021**

**12,277**



# MAYDAY PROBLEMS

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NIOSH 5

1. Improper Risk Assessment.
2. Lack of Incident Command.



## RESCUE TEAM BY ANY NAME

<b>IRIC</b>	Initial Rapid Intervention Crew
<b>RIC</b>	Rapid Intervention Crew
<b>RIT</b>	Rapid Intervention Team
<b>FAST</b>	Firefighter Assist and Search Team
<b>IRT</b>	Immediate Response Team
<b>RDU</b>	Rapid Deployment Team
<b>RICO</b>	Rapid Intervention Company
<b>RRT</b>	Rapid Response Team

**TERMINOLOGY**

## **Component 2: Size-Up / Initial Radio Report**

### **Declare Strategy:**

- **Offensive 93%**
- **Defensive 6%**
- **NO strategy declared 1%**

### **Additional Resource:**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Alarm 26%**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm 13%**
- **Additional equipment 35%**

# **SITUATION EVALUATION**

- **Determine the occupant survival profile**
- **Go in TOGETHER, stay TOGETHER, and leave TOGETHER**
- **Abandon and retreat before deteriorating conditions trap YOU**

Water vaporized on contact with hot surfaces (e.g., compartment

**If you can't accomplish  
fire attack and rescue  
Simultaneously  
Due to a lack of resources  
Then you must choose\  
Fire attack to take the  
FIRE away from the victim**

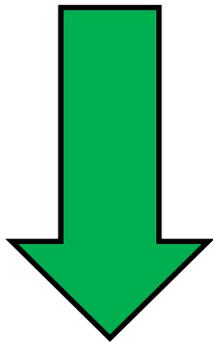
# MAYDAY PROBLEMS

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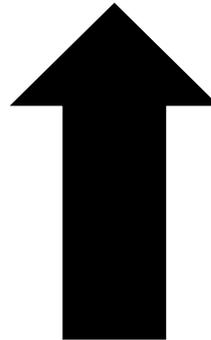
# 2016 NFPA Fireground Fatalities and Injuries Data

**Fireground  
Firefighter  
Fatalities**



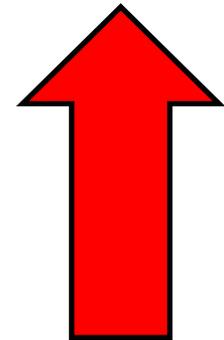
**2.6%**

**Fireground  
Injuries**



**120%**

**Fireground  
Permanent  
Disability**



**184%**

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**MINUTES**  
makes the difference  
Between  
**RESCUE**  
& **RECOVERY**

**In the Fire Service, we get *lucky* every day. Sometimes, even in the worst of conditions, things turn out all right. But, at *Project Mayday* our phone rings every day. Every day we hear about a firefighter somewhere who wasn't so lucky.**

**What would it look like to actually manage risk? How much better could we be in our decision-making? What actions can we perform to identify threats, assess vulnerabilities, and predict consequences? What if we didn't leave everything to luck?**

**Better risk management begins with a *Change in culture.***

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# RDPM

<p>High Risk Low Frequency</p> <p><b>Calling a MAYDAY Wire Entrapment SCBA Emergencies</b></p>	<p>High Risk High Frequency</p> <p><b>Emergency Response Traffic Accidents</b></p>
<p>Low Risk Low Frequency</p> <p><b>Fire Station Tour</b></p>	<p>Low Risk High Frequency</p> <p><b>Blood Pressure</b></p>

**RISK/FREQUENCY MATRIX**

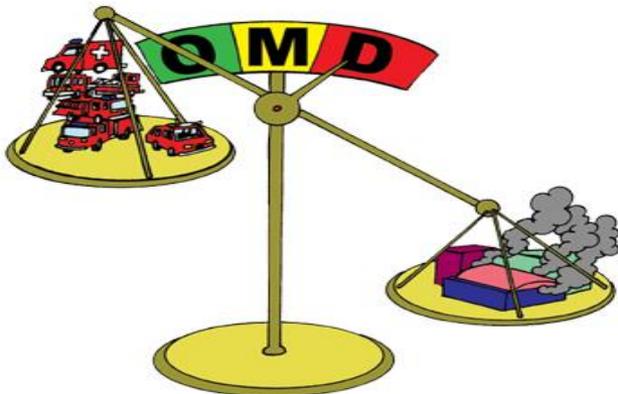
**75%**

# RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN



**WE'LL RISK OUR LIVES A LOT, if necessary, TO PROTECT SAVABLE LIVES**

**WE'LL RISK OUR LIVES A LITTLE, in a HIGHLY calculated manner, TO PROTECT SAVABLE PROPERTY**



**We will NOT RISK OUR LIVES AT ALL, for what is already LOST (people or property)**

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**Making effective risk decisions means looking at the situation for what it *IS* !**

---

**But there's a psychological component to these decisions that can cloud what is actually happening, beneath the surface.**

---

**Don't get so comfortable in your assumptions that you're not going through the risk management process to keep *yourself and your crew SAFE*.**

---

**Have you evaluated the situation? How is it changing or developing? Can you identify any watch out situations that should prompt you to take a closer look before committing your self or your crew. Are there physical, mental, or emotional conditions in yourself or your crew that increases or makes it difficult to recognize the *LEVEL OF RISK ?***

# CAUSE

<p><b>HIGH RISK</b> <b>HIGH</b> Frequency</p>	<p>Low Frequency <b>HIGH</b> Risk</p>
---	---

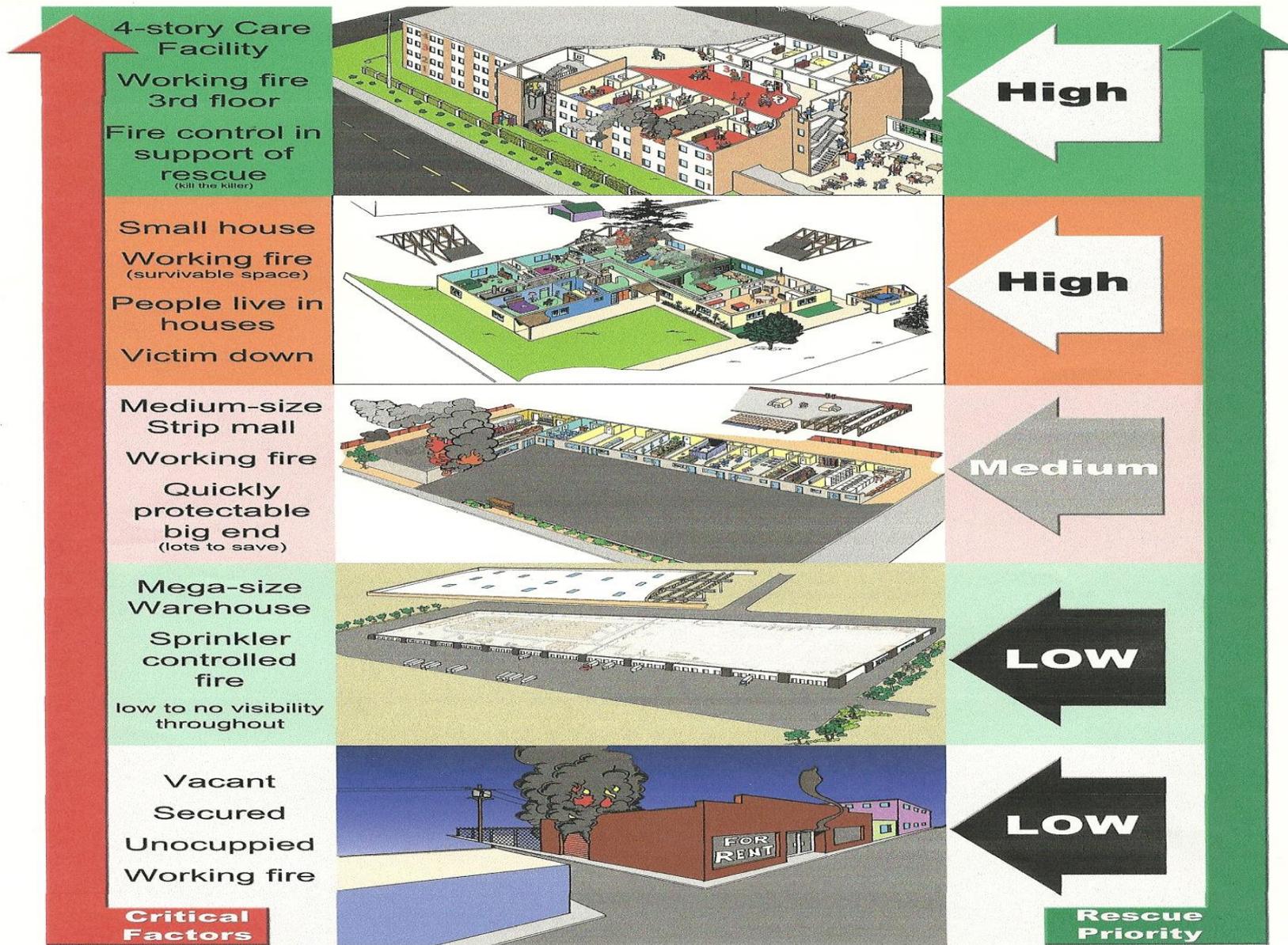
## NON DISCRETIONARY TIME

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OFF Hose Line</li> <li>• Collapse without Entrapment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floor</li> <li>• Lost in large area</li> <li>• Low AIR</li> </ul>
--	--

<p><b>SELF-RESCUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small area</li> <li>• ID outside wall</li> <li>• Locate Hose Line (use coupling)</li> </ul>	<p><b>RIC Operations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large area no landmarks</li> <li>• AIR at 25% after attempted self-rescue</li> <li>• Entrapment</li> </ul>
--	--

# COUNTERMEASURES

# Component 2: Size-Up / Initial Radio Report



**TYPES OF MAYDAYS**

**12,227**

- ***Lost/Separated from hose line***      **18.3% (2,247)**
- ***Air Problems***      **16.1% (1,982)**
- ***Floor Collapse/Hole***      **15.9% (1,956)**
- ***Falls through/off Roof***      **14.1% (1,643)**
- ***Entanglement***      **12.9% (1,584)**
- ***Explosions (Gas) Collapses***      **9.4% (1,147)**
- ***Medical***      **5.8% (713)**
- ***Other \****      **6.1%\* (750)**
- ***NO Communications***      **1.6% (205)**



## **WHERE DO MAYDAYS TAKE PLACE?**

Residential ..... **42.6%**

Multi-Occupancy ..... **15.4%**

**Commercial ..... 41%**

**2015-2021**

**12,277**

**COMPONENT 2: Lost, Separated from Hose Line –  
MAYDAY**



# **Lost / Separated from Hose Line**

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<b>HIGH RISK    LOW FREQUENCY</b> <b>Extending hose line</b>	<b>HIGH RISK    HIGH FREQUENCY</b> <b>Lost (NO hose line) Separated from hose line</b>
<b>LOW RISK    LOW FREQUENCY</b>	<b>LOW RISK    HIGH FREQUENCY</b>

**FREQUENCY**

**COMPONENT 2: Lost, Separated from Hose Line – MAYDAY**



**COMPONENT 2: Lost, Separated from Hose Line – MAYDAY**

**Lost, Separated from Hose Line 2,247      **18.3%****

- **Lost (NO HOSE LINE) .....1,161 ..... (60%)**
- **Separated from Hose Line ...1,086..... (40%)**
  - **150ft...(1 1/2-1 3/4) .....131 .... (18.4%)**
  - **200ft...(1 1/2-1 3/4) ..... 385.... (32.1%)**
  - **250ft...(1 1/2-1 3/4) ..... 318... (27.3%)**
  - **300ft...(2 1/2-3) ..... 252 ... (22.0%)**

<b>Residential</b> .....	<b>862</b> ....	<b>(38.3%)</b>
<b>Multi-Occupancy</b> .....	<b>318</b> ....	<b>(14.1%)</b>
<b>Commercial</b> .....	<b>1,067</b>	<b>(47.4%)</b>

**COMPONENT 2: Lost, Separated from Hose Line – MAYDAY**



**COMPANY LEVEL TRAINING**

## **COMPONENT 2: Lost, Separated from Hose Line – MAYDAY**



**Hose training is critical to crew performance. each member has a role/ position that allows for a more effective use in advancing the hose line and providing potential safer and more efficient fire attack**

## **COMPONENT 2: Lost, Separated from Hose Line – MAYDAY**

### **LOST: 63%**

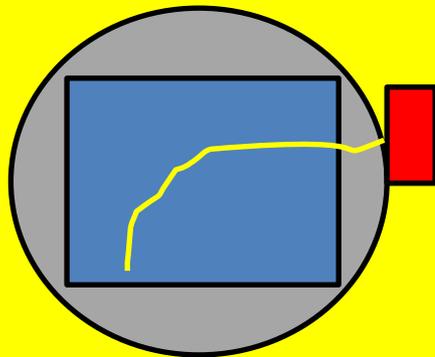
- Why enter a building without a hose line?
  - SOP/SOG allows entry ... YES ..... 86%
  - CO has the authority to make the call ...  
YES ..... 61%
- Were tag lines used instead of hose?  
YES ..... 16%

### ***General Comments:***

- Easier to make a quick search
- Faster crew deployment
- Allows for multi-task actions

**COMPONENT 2: Lost, Separated from Hose Line – MAYDAY**

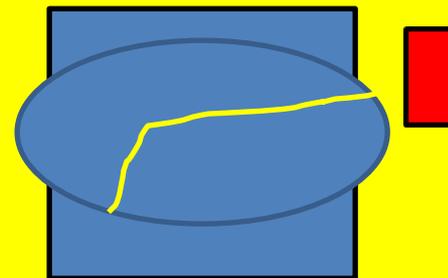
**SMALL - <1,200sqft**



**Covers 100%**

**MEDIUM – 1,201 - 2,400sqft**

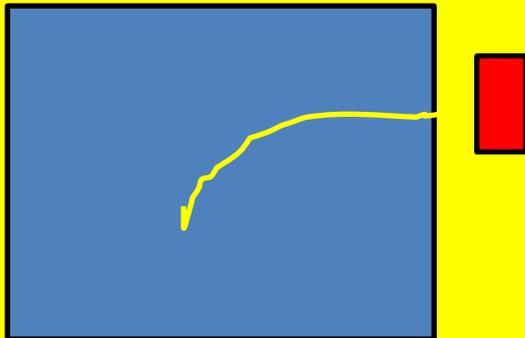
**30ft  
From  
structure**



**Covers 75%**

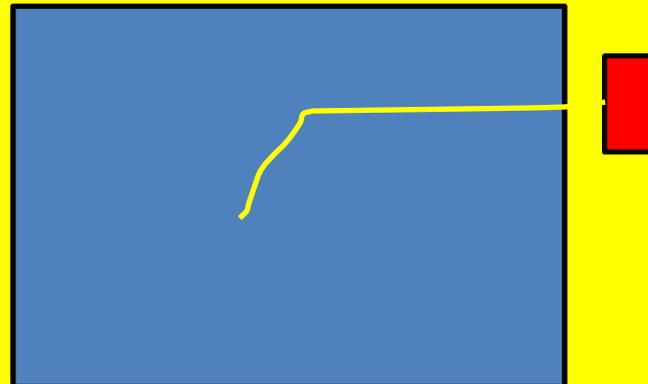
**200ft  
Handline**

**LARGE – 2,4001 – 5,600sqft**



**Covers 50-35%**

**MEGA - > 5,601**



**Covers – 25 – 10%**

## **COMPONENT 2: Lost, Separated from Hose Line – MAYDAY**

### **Separated from Hose Line: 40%**

- Why did you leave the hose line?
  - To search a larger area (rooms/floors) ..... 88%
  - Faster completion of search area ..... 86%
  - Split into two (one/two person) teams .... 71%
  - Given a specific assignment by the CO ....34%
- How often have you left a hose line?
  - 99% of the time
- Was tag lines used during separation ... YES ..... 3.5%
- What do you think the average amount of time during your hose separation? ..... 5-7 mins

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**COMPONENT 2: Lost, Separated from Hose Line – MAYDAY**



**A REAL ATTACK LINE!**

***Preventing MAYDAYS ....  
BEST Practices***

**Lost, Separated from Hose Line**

- **CONDUCT 360**
- **Prior to entry check nozzle setting**
- **Crews entering a working structure fire SHALL have a CHARGED fire attack hand line.**
- **Hoseline is a lifeline to the outside**
- **Hose size depends on the size of the fire, structure, and potential fire behavior.**
- **Avoid kinks and loops (NO dry line)**
- **In commercial structures, pick the right size hose for the job, NO gated wye passed the door.**

***Preventing MAYDAYS ....  
BEST Practices***

## **Why do we take a hose line to the Interior?**

- *First line is our basic priorities, LIFE and property*
- That means the first line is stretched to protect our egress
- In commercial structures, find the door closet to the fire, the main entrance still needs to be protected this is where most customers will want to exit.
- **REMEMBER:** Estimate hose distances...
  - distance from apparatus to entrance
  - distance from the entrance to fire area
  - *amount of hose needed to cover entire area*

***Preventing MAYDAYS ....  
BEST Practices***

- In commercial structures, have adequate crew size and placement to advance the line and a FF at the door counting couplings and reporting (100ft , 150ft, 200ft....at the door).
- Choice closest entry point to the fire.
- DO NOT extend lines inside working structure fires.
- When making search, have FF come up on the hose line to take your place, maintain voice contact or tag line, distances NO more than 15-20ft.

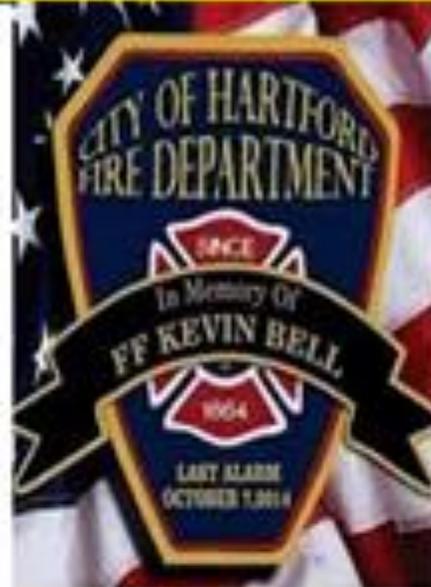
**COMPONENT 2: Lost, Separated from Hose Line –  
MAYDAY**

**TRAINING for MAYDAYS  
Lost or Separated from Hose Line**

---

- Hose training should be a monthly in-station training
- Checking nozzle for water/pressure should be routine procedure.
- Hose training should be done with 2,3,4 FF on a line, understanding how to make it.
- Practice loss of water operations

**Component 2: Types of Maydays – Air Problem**



# SCBA Problems

R  
I  
S  
K

<p>HIGH RISK LOW FREQUENCY</p> <p><i>Out of Air</i> <i>Facepiece Issues</i> <i>Regulator Problem</i> <i>Low Air Alarm</i></p>	<p>HIGH RISK HIGH FREQUENCY</p> <p><i>Low on Air (&lt;500psi)</i></p>
<p>LOW RISK LOW FREQUENCY</p>	<p>LOW RISK HIGH FREQUENCY</p>

FREQUENCY

**COMPONENT 2: Type of Mayday - Air Problem**

**Types of Air Problems (1,982)  
15.9%**

- Low Air \* 47.4% (1,015)\*
- Out of Air \* 37.6% (691)\*
- Facepiece problem 5.8% (181)
- Regulator 3.4% ( 95)

**We note that low air is when you exit the structure with 500 or less**

- Commercial structures

# TIME vs AIR = Survival



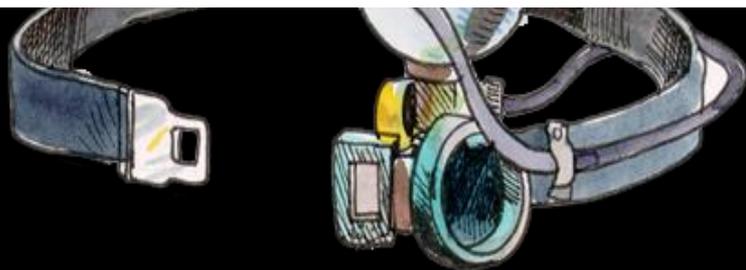
**LOW AIR ALARM**

**PSI vs Time**

**Wet Gear vs Dry Gear**

**Time = Options**

**Options = Survival**



## Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems

- Was cylinder full at time of entry? ... 71%

Average Air Usage: 80L/min to 100L/min, **when involved in a MAYDAY, usage increases 110L/min to 140L/min**

- Do you know which way to turn your by-pass purge?
- Which way does your cylinder valve open/close?
- How many turns to turn air completely ON?

## Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems

### Facepiece Problem:

- facepiece deformed .23%
- facepiece damaged .12%

### Regulator Problem:

- regulator malfunctions 1%
- regulator damaged .7%

### Distress Signal Unit:

- DSU (PASS) unit malfunction 5%

Average Age of SCBA: 12.8 yrs

## Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems

- Residential	.....	779.....	39.3%
- Apartments	.....	312.....	15.7%
- Commercial	.....	891 .....	44.9%

**NFPA reported in 2019, commercial structures fires increased 4.7%**

## **Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems**

**There are many factors that contribute to the length of time a firefighter takes to expend a full cylinder:**

- **Age**
- **Weight**
- **General health**
- **Size of person**
- **Fitness level**
- **Stress level**
- **Work intensity**

**We tell firefighters best way to save air is to:**

- **Sit down**
- **Don't move**
- **Breath slowly**

**NOT REAL !**

# **AIR CONSUMPTION ASSESSMENT**

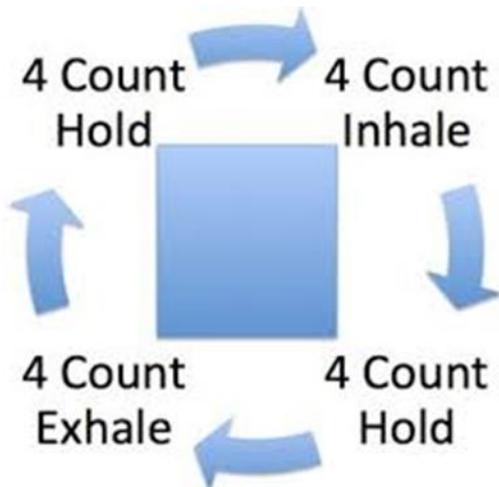
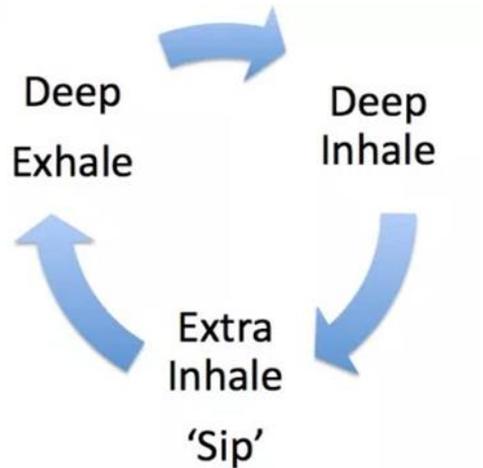
<b>NAME</b>	<b>First Green Light Out</b>	<b>Second Green Light Out</b>	<b>Orange Light Out Low Air Warning</b>	<b>Alarm Stops</b>	<b>OOA</b>
FF 1					
FF 2					
FF 3					

<b>NAME</b>	<b>1,500psi</b>	<b>1,000psi</b>	<b>Low Air Warning</b>	<b>Alarm Stops</b>	<b>OOA</b>
FF 1					
FF 2					
FF 3					

## Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems

- **Control**  
No specific technique, breathe slowly, conserve air  
OOA: Deep breath facepiece in place, two normal w/out facepiece
- **Skip breathing**  
A normal inhalation held for several seconds, followed by an additional inhalation before exhalation
- **Box breathing**  
A slow inhalation over 3-4 seconds, held for 3-4 seconds, exhaled over 3-4 seconds, and then held for 3-4 seconds before the next inhalation
- **Reilly Emergency Breathing Technique**  
A slow inhalation followed by an exhalation that was controlled by making a humming sound as the breath was released
- **Straw breathing**  
A slow inhalation followed by an exhalation that was controlled by pursing the lips to mimic breathing through a straw

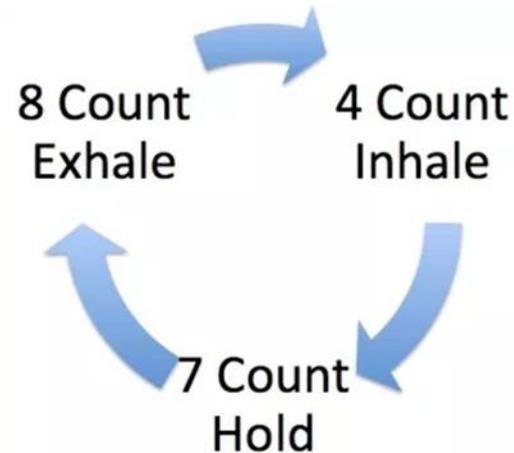
# Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems



## MAYDAY VICTIM'S BREATHING TECHNIQUES FOR SAVING AIR:

- Skip breathing ..... 24%
- Box breathing ..... 13%
- Reilly EBT ..... 4%
- Straw breathing ..... 6%
- Normal breathing ... 41%
- Unknown ..... 12%

\* Error rate of + / - 5%



## Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems



**Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems**

**Polyethylene**

**CO**

**PVC**

**Phosgene**

**Vinyl Chloride**

**Fiberglass-SMF**

**Cellulose**

**Formaldehyde**

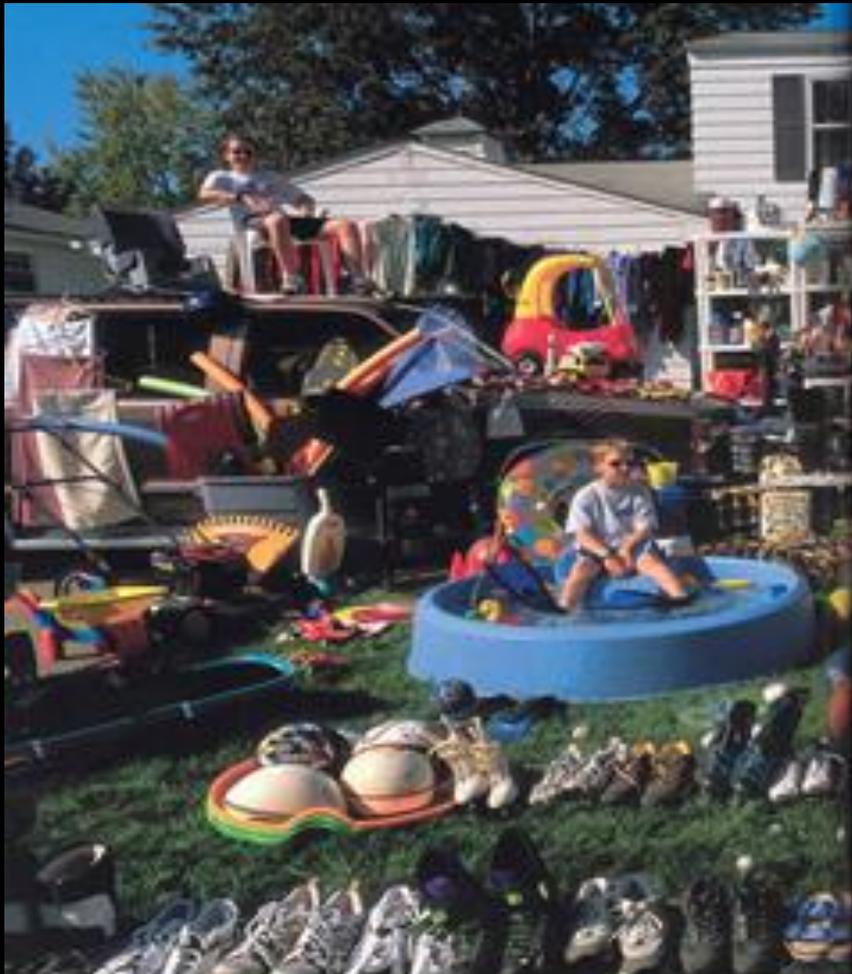
**Cyanide**

**ABS**

**Polystyrene**



## Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems

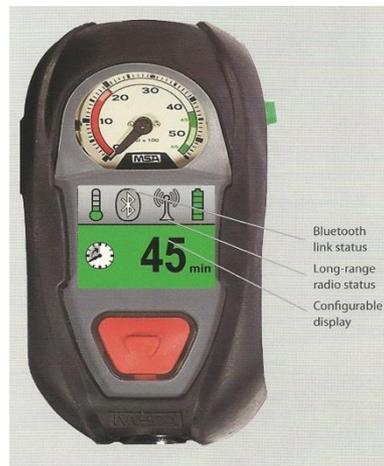




The first 1/3 of the air supply is to carry out assignment.



2018 Audio tapes we noticed a higher number of Firefighters speaking on the radio with low air alarms going off in the background that ever before.



The final 1/3 of the air supply is the safety margin.

# Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems



We found several problems that FDs have with SCBA:  
Annual Testing:

- Facepiece bench tested ... 34%
- Regulator bench tested ... 41%

Auxiliary IDs		Functional Tests			
Regulator	115S1611021870	Exhalation Pressure	Pass	1.9	"H2O
Reducer	115S1611005426	Facepiece Leakage	Pass	0.1	"H2O
-	-	Positive Pressure	Pass	0.9	"H2O
-	-	Primary Lockup	Pass	94.1	PSI
-	-	Primary Creep	Pass	-0.3	PSI
Project Number	430178	Air Saver Switch Activation	Pass	-4.8	"H2O
-	-	Transfer	Pass	1587	PSI
<b>Visual Inspection</b>		Secondary Lockup	Pass	158.6	PSI
Facepiece	Pass	Secondary Creep	Pass	-2.8	PSI
Backframe/Harness	Pass	High Pressure Leakage	Pass	17	PSI
Cylinder	-	Secondary Pr. at High Cylinder	Pass	-	-
Low Pressure Warning	Pass	Purge	Pass	203	L/min
Hoses	Pass	<b>Alarm Activation Pressure</b>		-	-
Manifold Volume: 0.115	-	4500 Vibratrel (35%)	Pass	1587	PSI
		<b>Gauge Accuracy</b>		-	-
		HP Numbers	Pass	-	-
		1000 PSI	2000 PSI	3000 PSI	-
		Pass 1198	Pass 2203	Pass 3183	-



Minimum	Maximum	Breathing Results		Minimum	Maximum
0.8	"H2O 2.1	"H2O	Pass	0.9	"H2O 2.4
		Facepiece Pressure			

## Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems

Also, the revised NFPA 1981 comes with four pretty heady changes that will affect not only purchasing decisions, but also tactical fireground considerations for fire service leaders.

### 1. Low-air alarm

The NFPA 1981-2007 required the alarm to sound when 25 percent of the cylinder's available air was left. The 2013 edition ups that requirement to 33 percent of the cylinder's available air.

The 2013 edition is the first that specifies an EOSTI level for fire service SCBA. The 25 percent threshold commonly accepted for years by the fire service actually came from NIOSH.

And even NIOSH never had a hard and fast 25 percent; the NIOSH standard had always been a window of 20 percent to 25 percent of available air.

NFPA 1404: Standard for Fire Service Respiratory Protection Training, 2013 edition, contains several requirements for individual air management when using SCBA:

The individual shall exit from an IDLH atmosphere before consumption of reserve air supply begins.

The individual shall recognize that the low air alarm notification indicates that the member is consuming the reserve air supply.

The committee added the higher 33 percent threshold to NFPA 1981 to increase the reserve air supply available and be in line with the specifications of NFPA 1404. The major manufacturers of SCBA are saying that they can accomplish compliance for existing SCBA through firmware upgrades for electronic EOSTI and changing spring tension on audible alarms, or the low-air bell.

With all the discussions regarding air management in recent years, including whether or not 25 percent was enough of a reserve air supply, this is a step in the right direction

## **Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems**

### **WHY DOES THE LOW AIR ALARM STOP?**

The low- air alarm is activated when the cylinder reaches 33% of its capacity. At this point, the secondary pressure regulator is activated and the facepiece mounted regulator is supplied with air at 1,000psi. When the cylinder drops below 145-165psi, the low air alarm will stop and user knows that their cylinder pressure is now at about 3%.

### **SO WHY STOP WORKING WHEN THAT HAPPENS?**

No long after the low air alarm stops, the user's breathing becomes restricted by the low air pressure. It feels as though each breath is being drawn out of the regulator. This is very much a tolerance situation based on the individual.

## **Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems**

### **PASS ALARM USE:**

**We can make a case for the constant activation of the PASS alarm Vs using the alarm intermittently. The constant alert of the PASS Device as in a “Mayday”, will add sensory overload, to which the Firefighter will respond physiologically with increases in anxiety, Heart rate, and respiratory rate, which ALL demands more air. Although the brain may represent only 2% of body weight (?), it Uses about 20% of the body’s metabolic energy.**

**Breathing techniques are only one technique used in classes in which we teach resiliency. We recommend a simple model: mindset controls, emotion, emotion will alter biology, and biology will effect performance. These establish mental toughness and acuity resiliency, helps establish the right frame of mind to achieve results because luck is not a sound fireground tactic.**

## Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems



### New Universal PASS Tone

Incorporate a new universal PASS tone to improve audible detection by the human ear  
 In December 2016, a Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) was issued requiring all manufacturers of PASS devices to change the alarm tone as required in the NFPA 1982, 2013 Edition standard for PASS devices manufactured on December 21, 2016

The new universal PASS alarm tone will be incorporated into the NFPA 1982, 2018 Edition standard

### Transmitting RF PASS

Incorporate two new tests to the RF PASS section to improve reliability

## Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems

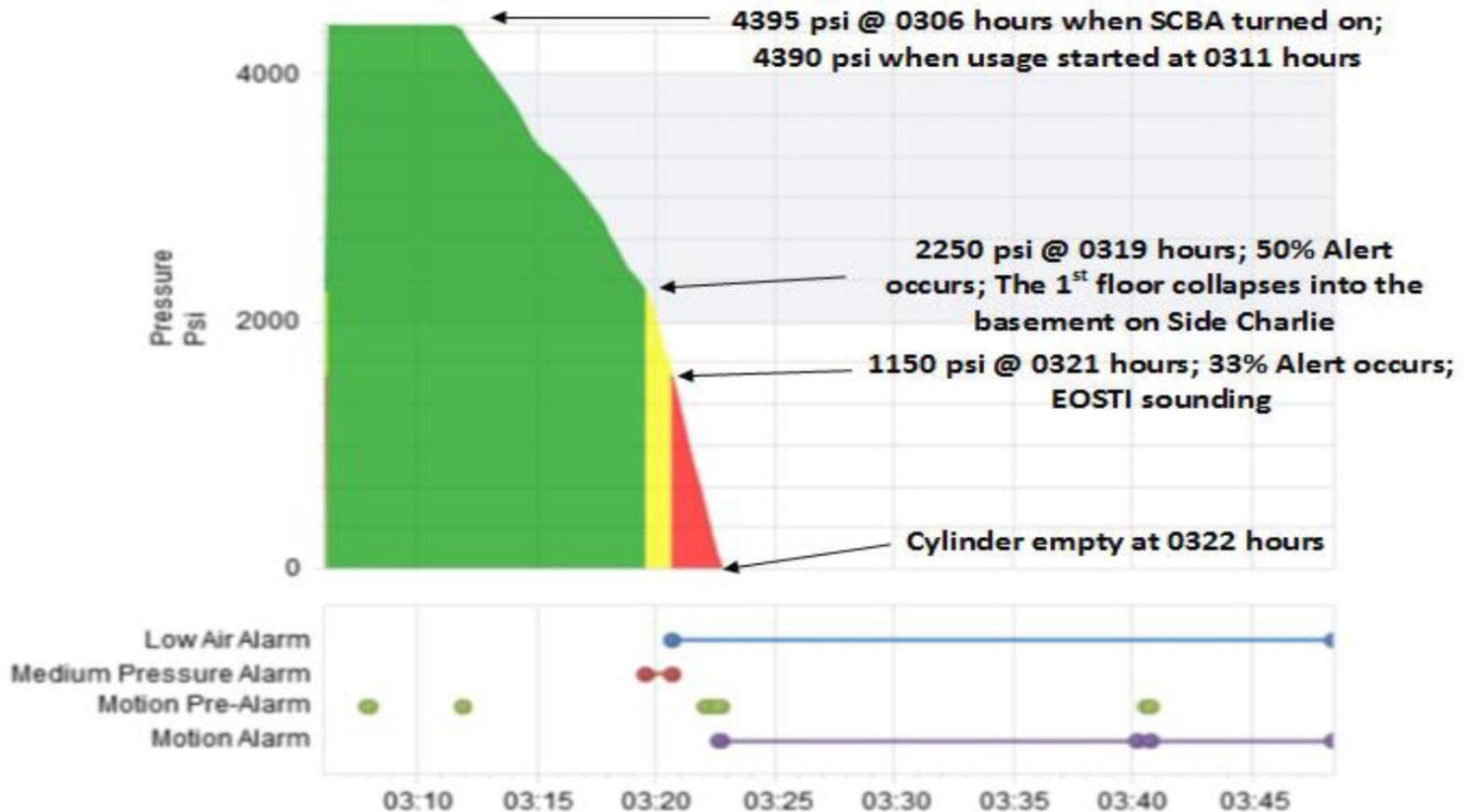
NFPA 1981, 2018 Edition

Pneumatic Data-logging

- ▶ Minimum Requirements
- ▶ Initial Air Activation (pressure, date and time stamp)
- ▶ Data Logging @ 30 second intervals (pressure, date and time stamp)
- ▶ Data Logging of Pressure Milestones
- ▶ 100%, 75%, 50%, and 35% (EOSTI)
- ▶ Breathing Rate @ 30 second intervals (minimum 5 LPM resolution)
- ▶ HUD Deactivation (pressure, date and time stamp)
- ▶ Retain 36 hours of data
- ▶ Does not replace the PASS data-logging requirement for 2000 minimum events
- ▶ Output data to CSV file
- ▶ No requirement for temperature data log

# Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems

## Fire Fighter – Squad 4C



**3,448**

**SCBA Data Logging  
Results**

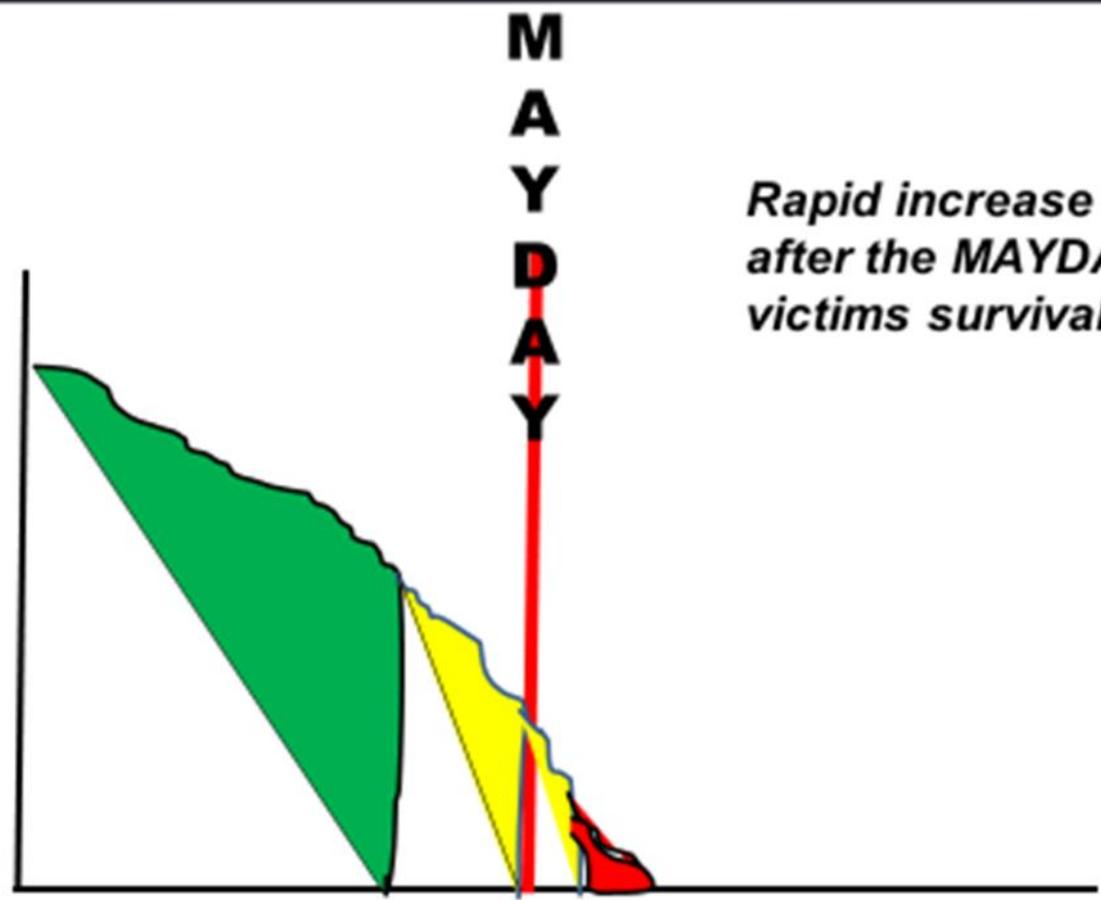
**General Maydays**

**1,571**

**SCBA Data Logging  
Results**

**Air Issues**

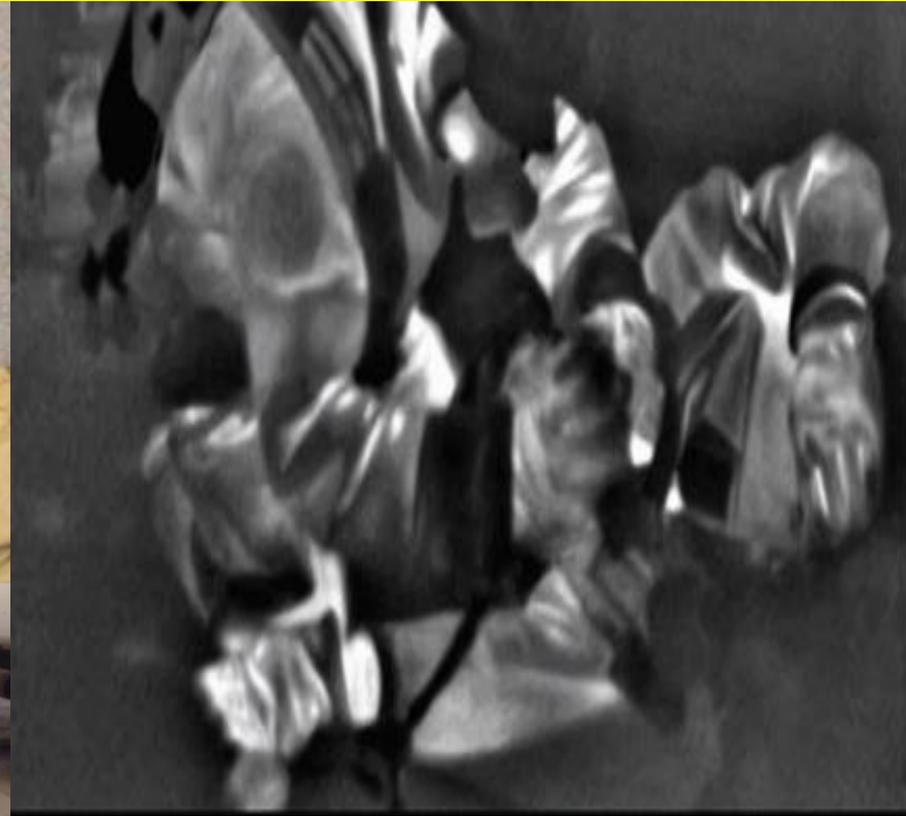
# Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems



*Rapid increase in breathing, after the MAYDAY, reduced victims survival times*

- 30 minute cylinder ..... **9%**
- 45 minute cylinder ..... **66%**
- 60 minute cylinder ..... **25%**

## Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems



**Transfills were used 21  
“mayday” situations**

## Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems

- **Three factors influence every breath...**
  - how fast or slow
  - deep or shallow
  - abrupt or smooth
- **During high work rate, the muscles need up to 100 times more oxygen than at rest, the heart must work 8 to 10 times harder.**
- **Physical work brings on many changes in the body:**
  - increased pulse
  - faster breathing
  - more blood per heart beat
  - perspiration
  - high blood pressure
  - higher body temperature
  - more blood to the muscles
  - greater lung absorption to maximize use of of red blood cells

## Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems

Regardless of what type of respirator is used, a vicious circle can occur:

- Increased dead-space + greater workload = more CO<sub>2</sub> in the blood
- More CO<sub>2</sub> in the blood = quicker breathing
- Quicker breathing = shallow breathing
- Quick and shallow breathing = even more CO<sub>2</sub>
- More CO<sub>2</sub> = psychological stress
- **Psychological stress = even quicker breathing**

## Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems



## **Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems**

### **Low on Air:**

- Why did you run low on air (low air alarm)?
  - CO did not conduct air checks during incident? 52%
  - Went farther into the structure than realized, did not estimate exit time/air? 78%
  - Physically fatigued, tired, used more air than normal? 58%
  - Ill at the time of entry? 6%

**Trying to find a FF down with an activated PASS device, can be difficult. Sounds bounce off everything. Plus other sounds, smoke detectors, alarms and sounds.**

## Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems

### ***Out of Air:***

- Why did you run out of air?
  - Thought I had enough air to exit? 91%
  - Other members had air, I thought I was okay? 84%
  - Assigned a task that had to be completed..... 6%

**Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems**

<b>30 minute</b>	<b>45cu.ft.</b>	<b>21lbs</b>
<b>45 minute</b>	<b>66cu.ft.</b>	<b>27lbs</b>
<b>60minute</b>	<b>87cu.ft.</b>	<b>32lbs</b>

- **30 minute cylinder ..... 6%**
- **45 minute cylinder ..... 64%**
- **60 minute cylinder ..... 30%**

**Average Air Usage: 80L/min to 100L/min, when involved in a MAYDAY, usage increases 110L/min to 140L/min**

*100 psi ... 8 – 12 breathes ..... Pressure /Volume ?*

## Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems

### WORK TIME PRIOR TO LOW AIR EMERGENCY 1/3 EOST

#### SCBA 4500PSI / ACR in PSI

forecast work times

30 ..... 12:31

45 ..... 17:21

60 ..... 24:27

#### SCBA 5500PSI/ ACR in PSI

forecast work times

30 ..... 12:58

45 ..... 18:22

60 ..... 25:31

75 ..... 31:33



## Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems

# PREVENTING MAYDAYS

## Low Air – OUT of Air Emergencies

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- ALWAYS start work with a FULL cylinder
- Listen/Monitor for time
- Monitor heads-up display (air reports by light status/ **RED** report actual PSI
- CO should monitor crews air status
- If a crew members has a air emergency, DO NOT send them out alone, another crew member/or the crew should leave with the member.
- In a MAYDAY situation where YOU lose your mask seal... **STOP**... RESEAL, if resealing fails to fix the problem, let the IC know IMMEDIATELY.

## Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems

- As soon as you reach LOW AIR **ALERT** ALARM, begin using LOW AIR BREATHING TECHNIQUE EXIT the structure.
- Buddy breathing/trans fill are last resorts
- Face piece replacement is a difficult procedure, make sure everything is ready, strap loose, face wipe, regulator attached – operating, tighten straps create a seal.  
If unconscious, crack by-pass valve, and remove consider, waist strap being place between the legs if NO webbing/rope is used as rescue harness.
- Attach air supply (RIT Bag) to the victim)
- Make sure during removal, cylinder does become closed.

## **Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems**

**In general, the most common communication problem encountered by firefighters is the ability to effectively communicate while wear SCBA.**

**It is essential to speak in a calm voice, at moderate volume, and with clear word enunciation.**

**These habits are developed everyday, depending on our training and experience by practicing these skills everyday day.**

**MAYDAY - MONDAYS**

**MAYDAY - MAY**

## **Component 2: Types of Mayday - Air Problems**

### **TRAINING FOR MAYDAYS**

- **Air Consumption Course should be conducted annual (determine air usage/with physical activity)**
- **Mayday drills should be conducted at night, with variety of problems for each group/NOT the same problems**
- **Create monthly station training**

## Component 2: Types of Maydays - Medical



**MEDICAL  
(713)**

**5.3%**

**Heart Attacks must occur  
in the IDLH or victim had  
worked in the IDLH**

## Component 2: Types of Maydays - Medical

**(428) Heart Attacks**

**(277) Advancing attack lines into commercial structure (2 ½ & 3”)**

**(56) Hand laying supply lines (4 / 5”)**

**(127) Know heart condition**

**(44) FD required physical/medical assessment**



## Component 2: Types of Maydays - Medical



# Component 2: Types of Maydays - Medical

**ACTIVITY**



**>> DEFINITION**

A MET (Metabolic Equivalent of a Task) is the rate of oxygen consumption during a task (as compared to resting). METs can be used to compare levels of exertion across different types of activity.



**>> NFPA 1582 Standard**

An aerobic capacity of 12 MET or below as a medical condition for a firefighter.





## Component 2: Types of Maydays - Medical

- Apparatus accidents (w/entrapment) 22% 93
- Struck by vehicle 27% (9)
  - apparatus blocking scene ..... 57%
  - wearing PPC only (NO vest) .. 68%

## **Component 2: Types of Maydays - Medical**

**Concussions:**

**941**

**38% concussion discovered 24 hours  
after the incident**

**41% off work for 72hrs or longer**

## **Component 2: Types of Maydays - Medical**

### **PREVENTING MAYDAYS** **Medical**

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- All FF should have annual medicals
- FF who have had a major medical procedure or illness longer than six months, should be required to have annual medical exam performed and perform air consumption course
- On-scene / rehab should be conducted by paramedics or trained Safety Officers

## **Component 2: Types of Maydays - Medical**

### **TRAINING Medical**

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- Consider environment and training requirements when conducting training (always have water present)

**Component 2: Fall through Roof - Maydays**





**Component 2: Fall through Roof - Maydays**



# Falls through / Off Roof

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<p><b>HIGH RISK    LOW FREQUENCY</b></p> <p>Falls off the Roof Vent Cut (unknown fire location) Falls through Roof/Ceiling</p>	<p><b>HIGH RISK    HIGH FREQUENCY</b></p> <p>Falls through the Roof Roof Travel (garages, structure, porch) Trapped in Attic</p>
<p><b>LOW RISK    LOW FREQUENCY</b></p>	<p><b>LOW RISK    HIGH FREQUENCY</b></p> <p>Vent Cut (know fire location)</p>

**FREQUENCY**

**Component 2: Falls through/OFF the Roof**

**FALLS THROUGH THE ROOF (1,643)**

**14.1%**



Decrease of  
3.6% between  
2020 and 2021

- Roof Travel (1,177) 67.9%
- Inspection Hole (187) 28.3
  - Vent Hole Cut (279) 24.7%
- Fell off the Roof/Ladd (186)\* 11.3%

**NUMBER OF FF ON THE ROOF:**

1 FF.....1,227	2 FF....284	3 FF.....97	4 FF.... 35
<b>(74.6%)</b>	<b>(17.2%)</b>	<b>(5.9%)</b>	<b>(2.1%)</b>

**Component 2: Falls through the Roof**

**TYPES OF ROOFS**

**- Peaked.....958.....58.3%**

<b>-Asphalt</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>30.1%</b>
<b>-Wood</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>19.6%</b>
<b>-Tile</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>-Metal</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>19.2%</b>

**-Flat Roofs .....685 ....41.6%**

<b>- Rubber coated</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>36.2%</b>
<b>- Membrane</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>25.1%</b>
<b>- Asp/Gravel</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>42.6%</b>

## Component 2: Fall Through the Roof - MAYDAYS

### **LADDERS: (1,643)**

- Ground Ladder	871	53%
- Aerial	772	46.9%
- Stick	441	57.1%
- Tower	321*	41.5%

### **STRUCTURES:**

Residential .....	(751).....	45.7%
Multi-Occupancy .....	(310)....	18.8%
Commercial .....	(572)....	34.8%

**Component 2: Fall Through the Roof - MAYDAYS**

Material	Protection	Collapse Time (min)
2x10 Solid Wood	None	18:35
2x10 Solid Wood	Lath & Plaster	>79:00
2x10 Solid Wood	Gypsum Wallboard	44:40
OSB I-Joist	None	6:00
OSB I-Joist	Gypsum Wallboard	26:23
Hybrid Truss	None	5:30

## Component 2: Falls through the Roof

### VVDC

Smoke has four visible attributes:

- **Volume:** Sets the stage for relativity to the building involved
- **Velocity** (speed and flow energy): Tells of the heat energy. Turbulent smoke that fills a box means Flashover!
- **Density:** The fuel saturation of smoke that is telling you the future potential for severity
- **Color:** Also indicates HEAT. Remember that smoke color can be stripped (filtered) over distance and through resistance



**Velocity trumps color!**

**Component 2: Falls through the Roof**



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**COMPONENT 2: Lost, Separated from Hose Line –  
MAYDAY**



**Component 2: Falls through the Roof**



**OVERLOADING  
ROOFS UNDER  
HEAVY FIRE  
CONDITIONS**



**Component 2: Falls through the Roof**



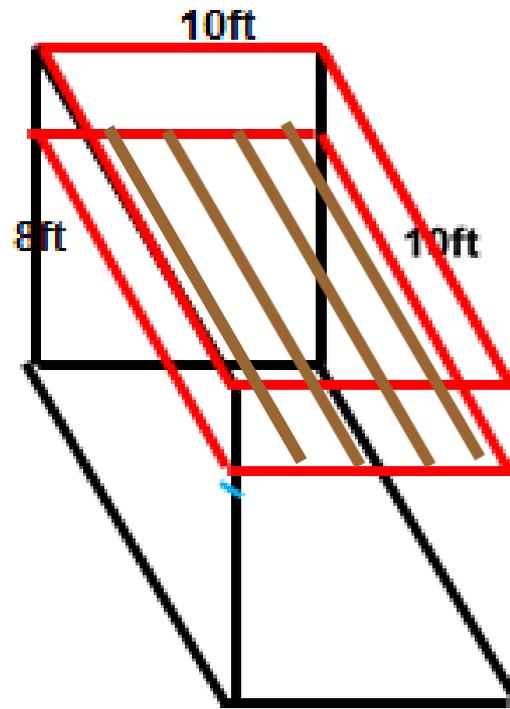
**Component 2: Falls through the Roof**



## Component 2: Falls through the Roof

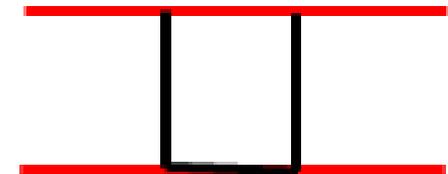
The frame is a metal frame  
10ft x 10ft  
8ft height

Use blocks or sand bags to  
hold base in place



U channels are welded in place  
on top and bottom side of frame  
The U channels holds 2 x 4 or  
2 x 6 in place

Smaller channels are placed on  
bottom cord to slide dry wall  
Or nail along bottom of 2 x 4 or  
2 x 6



You then can run wiring, insulation  
duct work etc.

**Component 2: Falls through the Roof**



**Component 2: Falls through the Roof**



**Component 2: Falls through the Roof**

**Roof Travel: 611**

- Did the roof crew know the location of the fire prior to roof operations? 36.5%
- Was the roof sounded by all members on the roof?      YES 20%      NO 80%
- Operations      Daytime 12%      **Nighttime 88%**
- Had the vent hole already been cut, prior to “Mayday”?      YES 35%
- Had multi-vent holes been cut, prior to the “Mayday”      YES 11%

## Component 2: Falls through the Roof

### Roof Travel:

- Had water been applied to the fire, prior to roof operations? 32.8%

### Fell through the Roof:

How far did you fall?

- Half-way through the hole? 56%
- To the rafters? 37%
- To the floor? 7%

### Half-way through hole:

- did you self-rescue? 19%
- did you need assistance? 81%
- did you drop your tools? 34.6%
- were you injured? 31%

## Component 2: Falls through the Roof

### To the Rafters:

- Did you breakthrough the ceiling?  
YES 41%
- What happen to your facepiece?  
Dislodged 77%  
\*were you able to rescue and donn  
facepiece, in less than a minute 11%
- Were you injured? 64%
- Were you burned? 37%  
( pants moved up, exposed legs)
- Could you get to your flashlight? 32%
- Was there entanglement? 44%

## Component 2: Falls through the Roof

### To the Rafters:

- Did you lose your helmet/dislodged? 66%
- Could you self-rescue? 16%
- Did you have flame or heat impingement?  
Flame 23% Heat 77%

### What area of the structure were you on during collapse:

#### Residential:

- Main structure 45%
- Garage 41%
- Porch 14 %

## **Component 2: Falls through the Roof**

### **Comments:**

- Difficult to get to radio
- Get to a position, where you can punch a hole in the ceiling
- Had difficulty repositioning facepiece and tightening straps
- Make sure you report possible injuries
- RIT had difficulty get victim out of area if they were unable to help

# PREVENTION

## **PREVENTING MAYDAYS** **Roof Operations**

---

- Conduct quality training for roof operation personnel
- Establish SOP's / with training that aligns with SOP's
- Make sure that roof operation has a plan and proper tools
- **COORDINATE** fire attack and ventilation operations
- **NO ROOF TRAVEL**, unless required (stay OFF garages and porches)
- Cut the hole, **GET OFF THE ROOF**

# **TRAINING**

## **TRAINING FOR MAYDAYS Roof Operations**

---

- **Conduct quality training for roof operation personnel**
- **Establish SOP's / with training that aligns with SOP's**
- **Practice setting & climbing ladders, roof travel, cutting holes and getting OFF roofs**
- **Never OVERLOAD the roof**
- **Trench Cut – Make sure you have the time, tools, personnel, and building construction knowledge to do it right and safely.**

**Component 2: - Trapped / Unable to Move - Maydays**



**COLLAPSE  
ENTRAPMENT  
ENTANGLEMENT**



# Entanglement/Trapped (Collapse)

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<b>HIGH RISK    LOW FREQUENCY</b> <b>Entangled in Attic</b> <b>Roof Collapse</b> <b>Structure Collapse</b> <b>Explosion (gas)</b>	<b>HIGH RISK    HIGH FREQUENCY</b> <b>Entangled in Structure</b> <b>Ceiling Collapse</b>
<b>LOW RISK    LOW FREQUENCY</b>	<b>LOW RISK    HIGH FREQUENCY</b>

**FREQUENCY**

**COMPONENT 2: Trapped/Unable to Move - MAYDAY**

**TRAPPED/UNABLE TO MOVE:  
ENTANGLEMENT **12.9%****



Increase of  
3.2% between  
2020 and 2021

- Wires, duck work, etc. (783) 49.4 %
- Ceiling/floor collapse (403) 25.4 %
- Structure shift/collapse (398) 25.1 %
  
- Occurred during salvage/overhaul  
..... 34%

**1,584**

**Component 2: Falls through the Roof**

## COMPONENT 2: Trapped/Unable to Move - MAYDAY

From Schupbach:

On April 14 between the time of 4am and 5am, a partial collapse accident occurred on the fire scene at 3008 W Euless Blvd. At the time of incident, I was on search team with Capt. Judd, FF Alvarado, and FF Sanders. We completed a search of the front of the restaurant and were unable to access the back of the restaurant (kitchen) from initial search entry point (side D). After everyone was pulled from front, we enter through the back door side C to search for occupant.

Upon entering FF Sanders was first, initially I was second until I was entangled in wires hanging from ceiling. I told FF Alvarado to go in front while I tried to keep wires high. After FF Alvarado passed I moved behind him trying to advance while untangling wires. At that time, an unknown object came from above me, unsure where it hit me. Object forced me to the ground in a prone position and laid on the back of me. I did not feel injured at any time but I was not able to get up. FF Alvarado lifted object off me and I was then ordered to leave the building from Capt. Judd. Capt. Judd was behind me close to entrance. I was able to stand and head out of building at this time. Note incident occurred about 6 foot inside exterior doorway. Soon after exiting, I could feel stiffness in my neck, reported after being asked if I was okay.

From Alvarado:

## **COMPONENT 2: The MAYDAY Event**

- Did you carry personal tools?
  - wire cutters ..... 81%,  
could you reach them ..... YES ..... 45%
  - rescue rope ..... 11%
  - extra flashlight ..... 19%
  - gloves ..... 47.2%



**COMPONENT 2: Trapped/Unable to Move - MAYDAY**



**COMPONENT 2: Trapped/Unable to Move - MAYDAY**



**COMPONENT 2: Trapped/Unable to Move - MAYDAY**



**Chain link fencing in warehousing can kill you, there  
Are in 12-24 feet in high, if they come down on  
You it will take a lot of work to get out. PRACTICE**

**COMPONENT 2: Trapped/Unable to Move - MAYDAY**



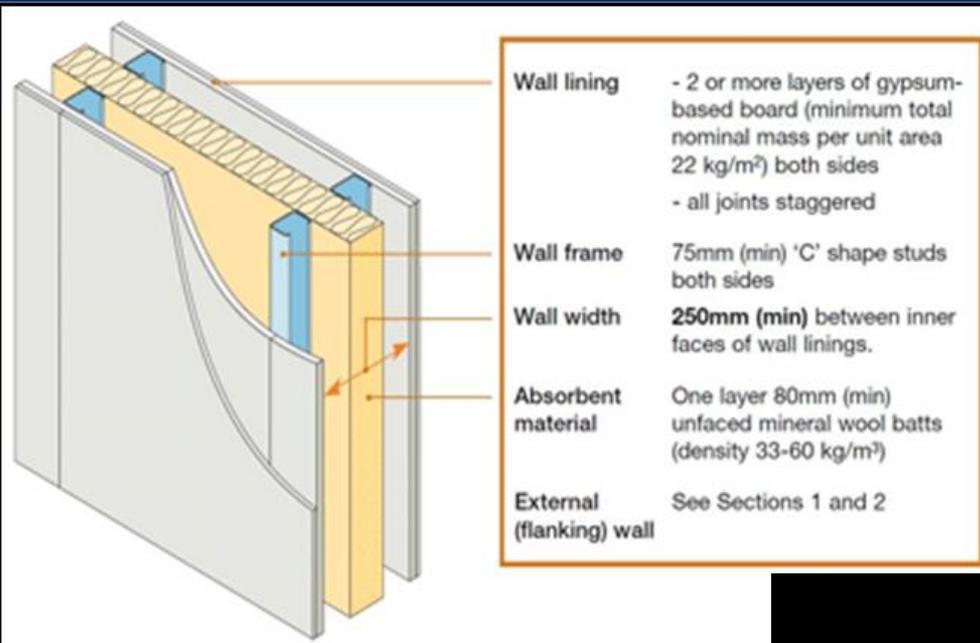
**COMPONENT 2: Trapped/Unable to Move - MAYDAY**

**WALLshield**

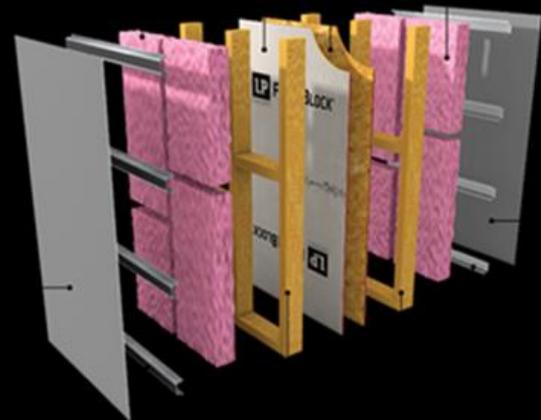
**HIGH IMPACT**

**wallBarrier**

# COMPONENT 2: Trapped/Unable to Move - MAYDAY



**Sound proofing  
In upper value  
construction**

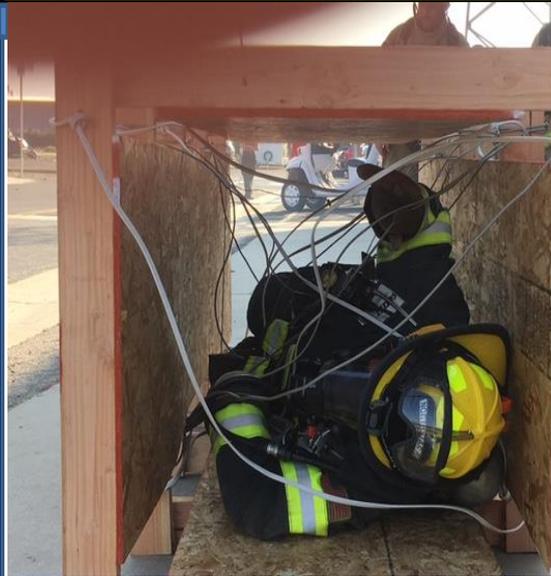


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**COMPONENT 2: Trapped/Unable to Move - MAYDAY**



**Rescue Team, RIT, Mayday Officer  
Training**



**In the last six years !!!!!  
We have killed 6 FF, disabled 31 FF,  
and injured 157 or more....  
PERFORMING THIS DRILL**

**INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM**



**Remove drapes and blinds before bailing**

**COMPONENT 2: Trapped/Unable to Move - MAYDAY**

- Residential ..... 514 ..... 42.6%
- Apartments .... 249..... 20.6%
- Commercial ... 442..... 36.6%

\* false ceiling grid work, shelves, products on shelves

## **PREVENTING MAYDAYS Trapped Firefighters**

- In collapse or trapped firefighter situations, starts with self-rescue (if possible)  
RIT, team should know as much information as possible about the situation ( tools/equipment required) **HAVE A PLAN**
- During rescue operations, maintain contact with victim (if possible)
- Make sure utilities have been controlled

## **COMPONENT 2: Trapped/Unable to Move - MAYDAY**

- **Make sure all personal tools are in pockets above the waist. (i.e.. extra flashlight, cutters, etc.)**
- **Make sure your radio in workable space**
- **Cut wires or whatever on the same side as you move.**
- **Move duct work and flatten it, rather than cutting it.**
- **Before breaching a wall, evaluate what you know (where you may have been) and think about what you don't know (location, type wall, also watch for electrical wiring**

**COMPONENT 2: Trapped/Unable to Move - MAYDAY**

# **TRAINING MAYDAYS**

## **Trapped Firefighters**

- Wire entanglement, breaching walls, working through floors and roofs/attic/ceilings is important training
- Have and use the proper tools for the required situation/ problem – selection.
- Make these training situations difficult (smoke, sound, heat, dark ...)

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**Component 2: - NO Communications - Maydays**



# Communications

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<p>HIGH RISK LOW FREQUENCY</p> <p><b>Lost radio</b></p>	<p>HIGH RISK HIGH FREQUENCY</p> <p><b>Weak/Dead battery</b></p>
<p>LOW RISK LOW FREQUENCY</p> <p><b>Radio NOT on</b></p>	<p>LOW RISK HIGH FREQUENCY</p> <p><b>Off channel</b></p>

FREQUENCY

**COMPONENT 2: NO Communications**

<b>NO Communications</b>	<b>..... 205</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
- Radio OFF.....	51	.....	(19.7%)
- Off Channel .....	67	.....	( 25.1%)
- Lost Radio .....	33	....	( 14.2%)
- Dead Battery .....	46	.....	( 15.1%)
- Wet Radio .....	17*	.....	( 25.1%)
- Simplex .....	93	.....	(45.3%)
- 800 .....	112	.....	(54.6%)

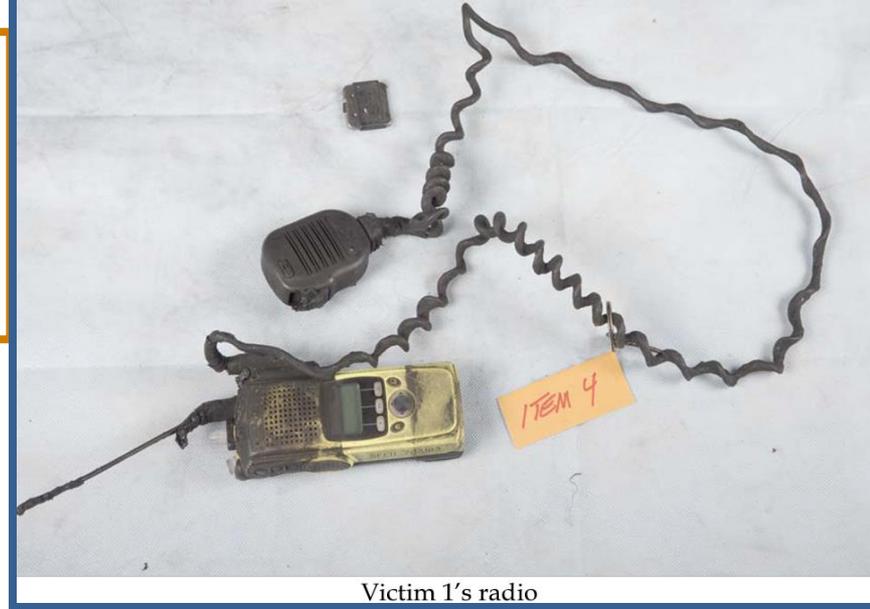
**COMPONENT 2: NO Communications**



San Francisco Fire Department  
2 FF Killed  
Lt. Vincent Perez, FF/PM Anthony Valerio  
1333 Berkeley Way  
June 2, 2011

1. \*Radio 185°F
2. \*RSM 293°F for How long?
3. \*Cord 300°F

NFPA = 500°F for 5 min.



Victim 1's radio

### NFPA 1802:

STANDARD ON TWO-WAY, PORTABLE RF VOICE COMMUNICATION  
DEVICES FOR USE BY EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL IN THE  
HAZARD ZONE

# Today's LMR

## Protect your RSM Cord!!



1. \*Radio 185°F
2. \*RSM 293°F for How long?
3. \*Cord 300°F

(\*Temp may vary depending on make & model)



NFPA = 500°F for 5 min.

## **COMPONENT 2: NO Communications**



- **Make sure all wires leading from radio to lapel microphone are under the coat, NOT exposed to heat.**

## **COMPONENT 2: Communication**

# **PREVENTING MAYDAYS Communications**

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- Maintain control of communication equipment
- Always check comms before entering hazard zone
- Know comm / set-up for best communications

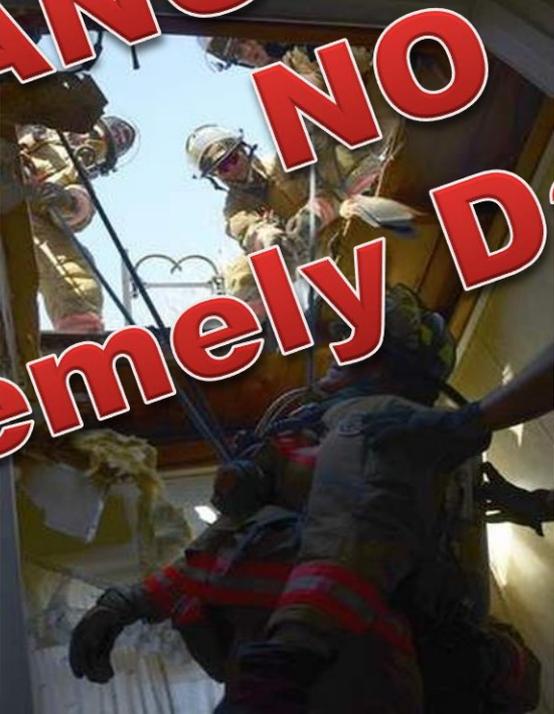
## **COMPONENT 2: Communication**

# **TRAINING MAYDAYS Communications**

- 
- Train on Mayday communications (station)
  - Know proper placement of comms equipment for best communication's
  - Practice Mayday (victim) without a radio

Component 2: - FALL INTO BASEMENT/TRAPPED - MAYDAY

PROJECT  
MAYDAY



DANGEROUS  
NO  
Extremely Dangerous

## COMPONENT 2: Fall into Basement/Trapped – MAYDAY



image 3 of 5



Firefighters and other emergency personnel try to resuscitate a firefighter as he is being taken to get help at the rear of the building at 528 Magnolia. The two firefighters went missing inside during the blaze. THE I look up and there's fire. I'm like, 'Oh my BLADE/JETTA FRASER Ms. Bishop said.

# **Falls into Hole/ Floor Collapse: (structure/basement)**

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<b>HIGH RISK    LOW FREQUENCY</b>  <b>Floor collapse Stairway collapse</b>	<b>HIGH RISK    HIGH FREQUENCY</b>  <b>Falls through Hole</b>
<b>LOW RISK    LOW FREQUENCY</b>	<b>LOW RISK    HIGH FREQUENCY</b>

**FREQUENCY**

**COMPONENT 2: Hole in Floor/Floor Collapse Trapped  
MAYDAY**

**15.9%**



Increase of  
7% between  
2019 and 2021

**Fall into Basement/Trapped ..... 1,956 ....**

- Floor (Collapsed) .. 848.. (48.4%)
- Floor (Hole) .... 691... (40.4%)
- Stairway Collapse ..... 432 .... (23.6%)
- Underfloor/ceiling Collapse .....284+ .... (14%)

**1,649**

**COMPONENT 2: Fall into Basement/Trapped – MAYDAY**

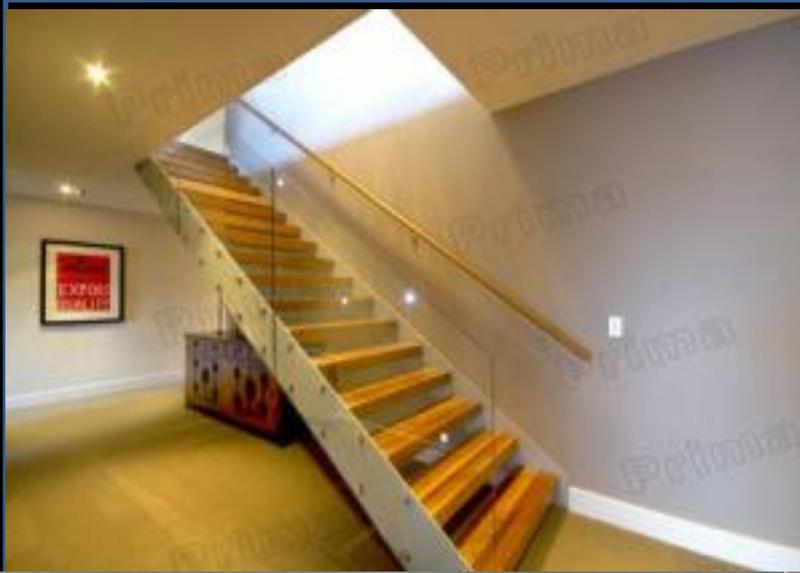


**COMPONENT 2: Fall into Basement/Trapped – MAYDAY**



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# COMPONENT 2: Fall into Basement/Trapped – MAYDAY



**COMPONENT 2: Fall into Basement/Trapped –  
MAYDAY**



**Delayed Discovery =  
Delayed Notification =  
Delayed Response**

**Scott M. Peterson, 2005**

**COMPONENT 2: Fall into Basement/Trapped –  
MAYDAY**

**6**

**minutes**

**amount of time to collapse for  
lightweight-construction floor assemblies**

**19**

**minutes**

**amount of time to collapse for floor  
assemblies built with “legacy”  
building materials**

# COMPONENT 2: Fall into Basement/Trapped – MAYDAY

**YOU never know what you are going to find in a basement**



**COMPONENT 2: Fall into Basement/Trapped – MAYDAY**

- Fire flows from basement fires developed in location other than the stairs, as the floor assembly often failed close to the location where the fire started.
- Flowing water at the top of the stairs had limited impact on basement fires. In cases it may spread the fire into hidden spaces and into the upper house or take out windows.
- **Whatever hose line you take to a basement, needs of the length to cover the entire basement (apparatus to entrance, entrance to basement stairs, and cover the basement area**

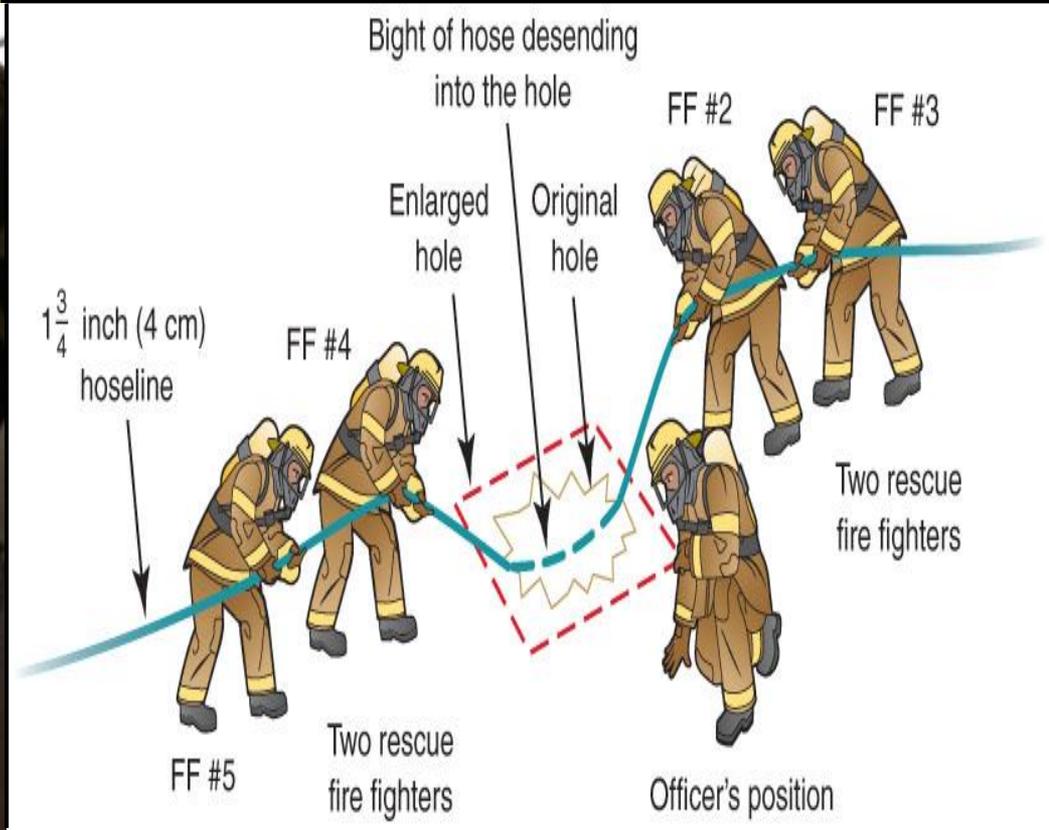
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**COMPONENT 2: Fall into Basement/Trapped – MAYDAY**



# Rescue Team, RIT, Mayday Officer Training

**Was basement drills conducted as part of RIT training  
28%**



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**Rescue Team, RIT, Mayday Officer  
Training**



## **COMPONENT 2: Fall into Basement/Trapped – MAYDAY**

- **Basement**
  - **NO exterior windows .... 36%**
  - **Had a second exit ..... 3%**
  - **Finished interior..... 62%**
    - w/ multi-compartments 81%**
  - **Bedroom (s) ..... 44%**
  
- **Basement Stairway**
  - **exposed steps ..... 56%**
  - **enclosed stairway ..... 38%**
  - **stairway had landing.. 21%**



**COMPONENT 2: Fall into Basement/Trapped – MAYDAY**

- Was a basement identified prior to your entry?  
YES .... 42%
- Was floor sounded/tapped during entry?  
YES .... 22%
- Were you standing up at the time of the floor collapse? YES .... 78%
- How many FF were on the floor at the time of the collapse? (1) .... 67% (2) .... 29% (3) .... 4%  
(4) .... 1%
- Was a TIC used to identify fire in the basement?  
YES .... 42%
  - facepiece dislodged .. YES .... 87%
  - lost helmet .. YES .... 41%

## **COMPONENT 2: Fall into Basement/Trapped – MAYDAY**

- **Basement collapse conditions:**
  - **When you fell into the basement, how did you land ....**
    - **face down .... 34%**
    - **face up .... 42%**
    - **on side .... 24%**
  - **Was there fire in the basement? YES .... 95%**
    - **could it be controlled by a single handline YES .... 56%**
  - **debris (furniture, etc.) came on top of us after we fell in the basement ... YES .... 61%**
  - **were you able to self-rescue? YES .... 31%**
  - **was stairway in tack? YES .... 34%**

## **COMPONENT 2: Fall into Basement/Trapped – MAYDAY**

- **Was victim packaging required? YES .... 33%**
- **Concerns while trapped in basement?**
  - **power was still on .... YES .... 41%**
  - **potential further collapse .... YES .... 88%**
  - **fire control .... YES .... 65%**
  - **being able to move to a safe position ... YES .... 56%**
  - **identified possible injuries, reported them to the IC .... YES ....93%**
  - **able to give instructions to rescuers .. YES... 54%**
  - **lost radio/would not work .. YES .... 42%**
  - **facepiece dislodged .. YES .... 85%**
  - **lost helmet .. YES .... 46%**

# COMPONENT 2: Fall into Basement/Trapped – MAYDAY

PROJECT  
MAYDAY



360



## COMPONENT 2: Fall into Basement/Trapped – MAYDAY

- DO NOT attempt to attack the basement fire from an



## **COMPONENT 2: Basements**

# **PREVENTING MAYDAYS**

## **Basements**

---

- Conduct 360's
- Identify basement / potential area
- Identify initial conditions ( walk-crawl / note floor conditions ((rug- discolored, hard))(( tile - cracking/soft)) (( hard floor – separation, blugging, discolored))
- Probe floor (standing or crawling)
- Check stairway condition (identify landing at the bottom of the stairs) (maintain door control)
- Attack Line (NO kinks/loops) Back-Up at the top
- Basement compartment

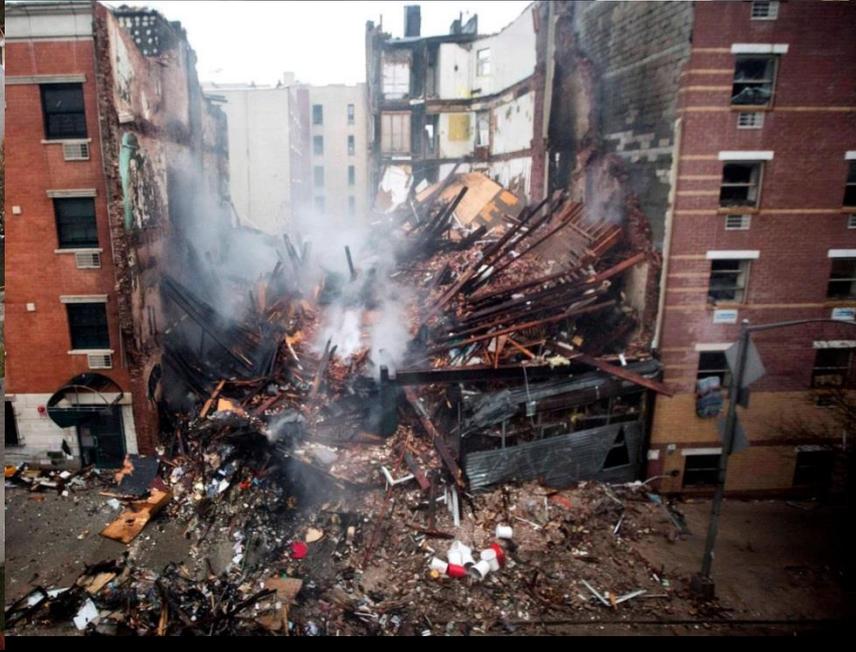
## **COMPONENT 2: Basement**

# **TRAINING FOR MAYDAYS Basement**

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- Tour new home construction / basement layouts and design (building construction)
- Identify best removal techniques
- Practices those techniques
- Conduct basement training (real / hard) and removal techniques

# **COMPONENT 2: Explosions**



## **COMPONENT 2: Explosions**

### **GAS EXPLOSION (LODD 2021 .... 2)**

**9.4%**



Increase of  
4% between  
2020 and 2021

- Firefighters notified of gas leak by dispatch ...  
73%
- Firefighter informed of gas smell on arrival ...  
65%
- Firefighter enters structure with above  
information ... 54%
- Firefighters air monitored prior to entry ... 47%

**1,147**

## **COMPONENT 2: Explosions**

# **PREVENTING MAYDAYS**

## **Explosions**

---

- Listen to dispatch information
- Monitor situation (situational awareness)
- Establish a Hazard Zone Evacuation have conducted
- Make sure proper utilities have been alerted
- HazMat has been dispatched
- Air monitoring has been conducted with the correct instrument
- Followed established SOP's

## **COMPONENT 2: Explosions**

# **TRAINING FOR MAYDAYS Explosions**

---

- Conduct training with local utilities at least every three years
- Conduct training simulations (natural gas, sewer, etc.)
- Conduct air monitoring training with instruments used by the AHJ
- Conduct training with HazMat Team

# COMPONENT 2: Other



**COMPONENT 2: Other**



Increase of  
2.3% between  
2020 and 2021

**Other:           ..... 750       **6.1%****

- Holdup (drugs) ..... 87 ..... (11.6%)
- Assaults ..... 236 ..... (31.4%)
- Gunshots/Shootings ... 281..... (47.4%)
- Drug Lab ..... 72 ..... ( 9.6 %)

## **COMPONENT 2: Other**

# **PREVENTING MAYDAYS**

## **Others**

- Listen to dispatch information
- Monitor situation (situational awareness)
- Coordinate with Law Enforcement
- Followed established SOP's

## **COMPONENT 2: Other**

# **TRAINING FOR MAYDAYS**

## **Others**

---

- Conduct training with law enforcement
- Conduct training simulations (natural gas, sewer, etc.)
- Conduct air monitoring training with instruments used by the AHJ
- Conduct training with HazMat Team

***“The capability of our protective gear can now consistently out perform the natural limits of our anatomy and physiology...just because you can go someplace on the fire ground doesn’t mean you should go there ... simply our modern turnouts can live a lot longer than our old fashioned bodies.”***

***Chief Alan Brunacini***

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**BE PREPARED**

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Palm Beach County Fire Rescue

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CAM 1

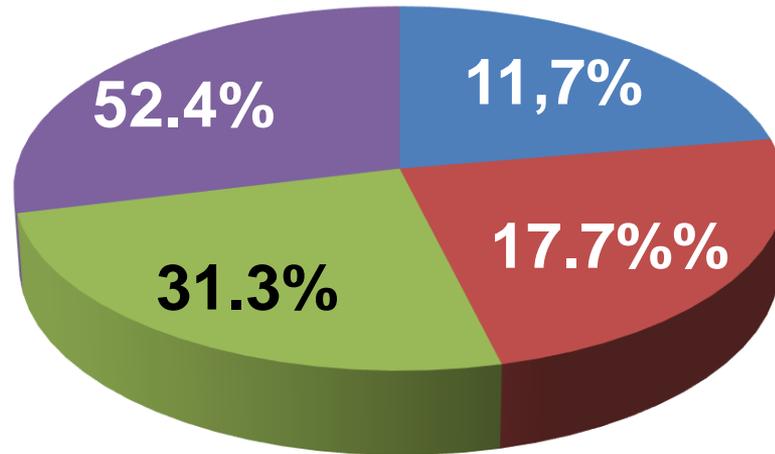
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# COMPONENT 2: Injuries from MAYDAYS

**CAREER**

## **Injuries from Maydays**



■ Perm.Disab.	(1,877)
■ Hospital >72	(2,170)
■ ER Obser.	(3,831)
■ Treated On-Scene	(6,147)

**12,277**

## COMPONENT 2: Injuries from MAYDAYS

### **PERMANENT DISABILITY**

### **CAREER**

- **Quadriplegic .... 41**
- **Paraplegic ..... 496**
- **Spinal injuries ..... 482**
- **Head Injury ..... 519**
- **PTSD ..... 846**
- **Impact trauma .... 207**
  
- **3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns... 30 to 50% of the body ..... 352**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns...50 to 70% of the body ..... 219**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns...> 70% of the body ..... 217**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> degree burns...> 30% of the body ..... 413**
  
- **multi-fractures lower body ..... 338**

**COMPONENT 2: Injuries from MAYDAYS**



## **COMPONENT 2: Injuries from MAYDAYS**



**Every department should have a field policy in dealing with concussions (ceiling collapse, floor collapse, stairways, and falls.**

## COMPONENT 2: Injuries from MAYDAYS

### Signs and Symptoms

Signs and symptoms of MTBI generally fall into four categories: physical, cognitive, emotional, and sleep, and may include:

Physical	Cognitive	Emotional	Sleep
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Nausea</li> <li>• Vomiting</li> <li>• Balance problems</li> <li>• Dizziness</li> <li>• Visual problems</li> <li>• Fatigue</li> <li>• Sensitivity to light</li> <li>• Sensitivity to noise</li> <li>• Numbness/ Tingling</li> <li>• Dazed or stunned</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feeling mentally "foggy"</li> <li>• Feeling slowed down</li> <li>• Difficulty concentrating</li> <li>• Difficulty remembering</li> <li>• Forgetful of recent information or conversations</li> <li>• Confused about recent events</li> <li>• Answers questions slowly</li> <li>• Repeats questions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irritability</li> <li>• Sadness</li> <li>• More emotional</li> <li>• Nervousness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drowsiness</li> <li>• Sleeping less than usual</li> <li>• Sleeping more than usual</li> <li>• Trouble falling asleep</li> </ul>

## COMPONENT 2: Injuries from MAYDAYS



## COMPONENT 2: Injuries from MAYDAYS

### Sample questions from ImPact test

The ImPact test is administered at the start of a sports season to determine an athlete's baseline results, and again following a concussion to determine if his or her brain has recovered from the trauma. The memory and recognition tests, samples shown below, are conducted in conjunction with a general healthy history questionnaire and a survey of recent symptoms.

#### SYMBOL MATCHING

Evaluates visual processing speed, learning and memory



Click on the number that corresponds to the following symbol:



Symbols are shown with corresponding numbers. As a symbol is displayed below, the subject must click on the matching number above. After 27 matches, the subject must remember the correct symbol-number pairing.

#### DESIGN MEMORY

Evaluates attentional processes and visual recognition memory



Was this one of the designs displayed?

Yes

No

Twelve designs are presented for 750 milliseconds, twice to facilitate learning. The subject is then shown a series of correct and incorrect designs and asked if each was displayed previously.

#### COLOR MATCH

Evaluates reaction time, impulse control/response inhibition

RED

BLUE

GREEN

Some words are displayed in their matching color (e.g. RED appears in a red color) and some do not (e.g. BLUE appears in a green color). The subject is instructed to quickly click on the word box only if the word and color match.

## **COMPONENT 2: Injuries from MAYDAYS**

**CAREER**

**DISABILITIES: 2,261**

**Estimated Cost: \$ 39,350,000.00**

**(pension payments, medical care, insurance  
transportation, salary, replacement cost)**

**Pending Lawsuits: 219**

**Estimated Cost: \$ 37,500,000.00**

**Fifty-nine Settlements .... \$ 177,000,000**

# PPC Worn During Mayday

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## **WHAT IS TPP?**

Thermal Protective Performance

In the 1986 revision of NFPA 1971, Protective Clothing for Structural Fire Fighting, a new test method for measuring thermal protection was introduced and a minimum thermal protective performance (TPP) rating was established. Its purpose is to measure the rate at which convective and radiant heat penetrate through the composite system—outer shell, thermal liner and moisture barrier—to cause second-degree burns to the human skin.

The NFPA minimum requirement of a TPP rating of 35 equates to 17½ seconds until second-degree burns occur in a flashover situation.\*

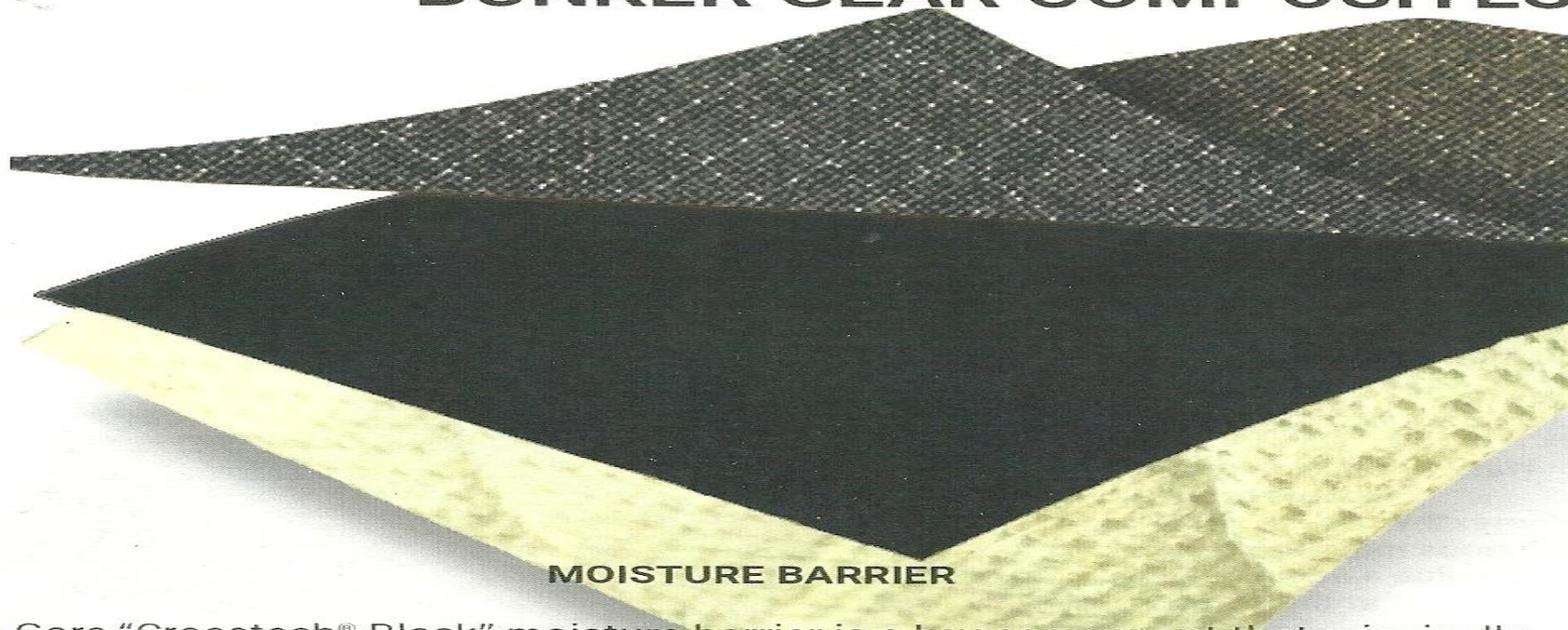
## **FDNY GEAR TPP -42.7**

### **WHAT IS THL?**

Total Heat Loss

The total heat loss is a combination of the dry heat loss and the wet heat loss that occurs through the three-layer ensemble. The NFPA 1971 minimum requirement is 205 W/m<sup>2</sup>.

\* TPP measurements do not imply a certain protection time. Tests are done under perfect laboratory conditions and DO NOT take into consideration that every fire incident results in different exposures, most likely bringing about lower escape time.

**PPE****BUNKER GEAR COMPOSITES**

The Gore "Crosstech® Black" moisture barrier is a key component that principally prevents the transfer of liquids. It contributes to the overall thermal protection, while also being the primary defense against chemical and viral agents. This is accomplished by laminating a revolutionary, permeable film barrier to a flame-resistant substrate material, which is designed specifically, in combination with the other layers, to allow breathability (the ability to evaporate sweat off skin and out of the gear—the body's primary cooling mechanism) to reduce physiological stress and overheating.

**THERMAL LINER**

The Tencate "Defender M SL2" thermal liner is a critical component in bunker gear because, in conjunction with the moisture barrier, the two account for the majority of the thermal protective performance. This is accomplished by air trapped between the layers of the quilted material. The facecloth material is the innermost part of the bunker gear, which has wicking properties (absorbs moisture and remains dryer) and smoothness, which improves comfort and mobility and assists in moisture management.

# **PPE**

**OUTER SHELL  
PBI® XT**

**MOISTURE BARRIER  
CROSSTECH® BLACK**

**THERMAL LINER  
DEFENDER M SL2**

## **OUTER SHELL**

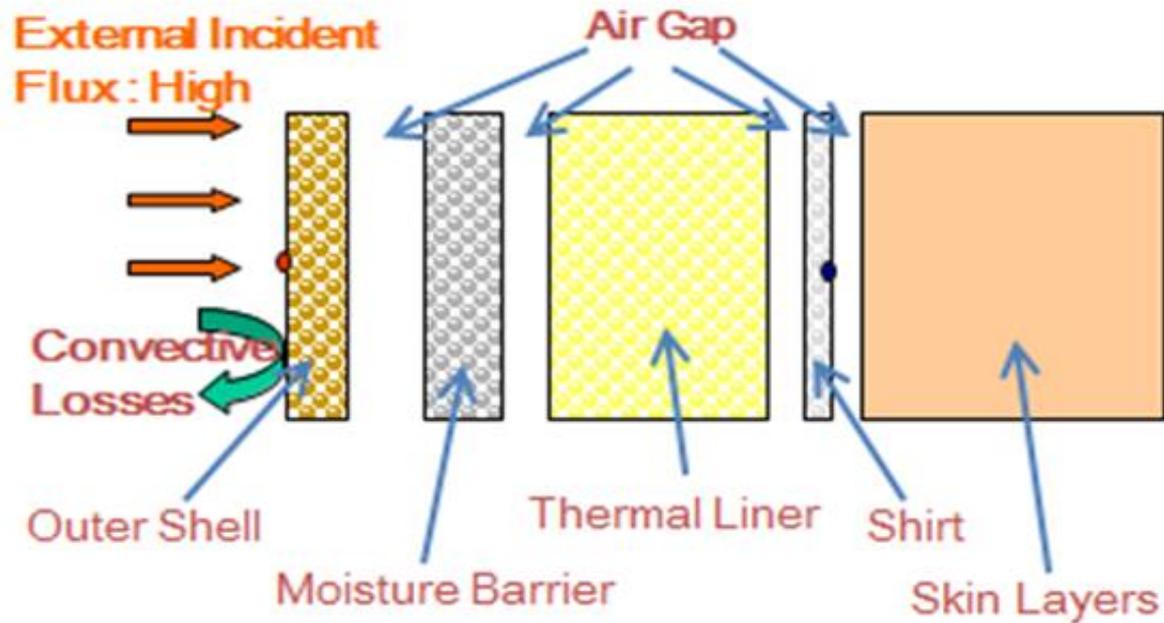
“PBI® XT” outer shell manufactured by Tencate is the outermost layer and is the first line of defense.

The optimal mix of ~40% PBI® and ~60% Kevlar® offers increased thermal and flame protection and the best resistance to break-open in the industry.

In addition to the high flame resistance, it also provides protection from abrasion, cutting and tearing.

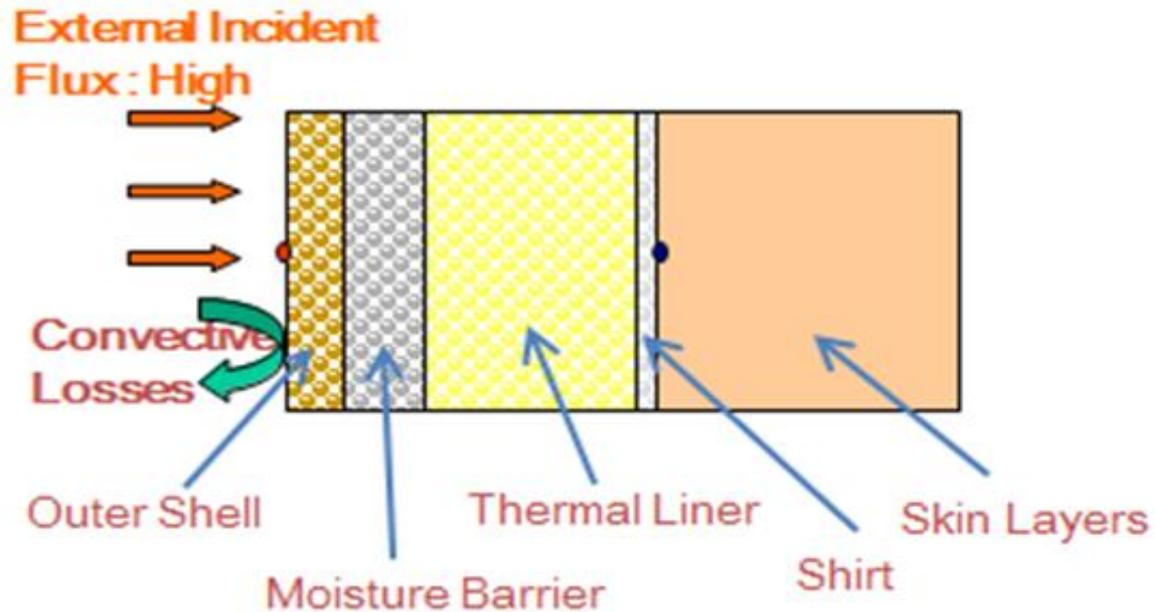
# PPE

## Heat and Moisture Transfer in a Turnout Coat Uncompressed



# PPE

## Heat and Moisture Transfer in a Turnout Coat Compressed



# PPC Worn During Mayday

## PPC Worn During Mayday:

- Nomex            45%            (*Wet – 56.7%*)
- PBI                46%            (*Wet – 58.4%*)
- Other             9%             (*Wet – 13.7%*)
  
- Hood
  - Nomex          42%            (*Wet- 8.2%*)
  - PBI              56%            (*Wet- 9.3%*)
  - None            2%

**Only 24% of the Project Mayday reporting FDs, had a second set of PPC.**

# PPC Worn During Mayday

## PPC Worn During Mayday:

- **Gloves**
  - **FF**           **96.3%**           **(Wet 67.2%)**
  - **Non**           **2.4%**
- **Helmet**
  - **Leather**       **44.7%**
  - **Syn/Pol**       **55.3%**
- **Rubber Boots**       **20%**
- **Leather Shoes**       **80%**

# PPC Worn During Mayday

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE

- ADDS 40 lbs OR MORE TO YOU.
- EXTRA WEIGHT= INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF ENERGY NEEDED TO MOVE.
- TRAPS ALMOST ALL BODY HEAT INSIDE PROTECTIVE GEAR.
- PREVENTS MOST PERSPIRATION FROM EVAPORATING.
- WHICH IN TURN SOAKS INNER CLOTHING.
- WHICH PREVENTS EVAPORATIVE COOLING.

# PPC Worn During Mayday

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## Under Garments:

### Shirt:

- Uniform Non-FR (SS) **16.2%**
- Uniform Non-FR (LS) 9.1%
- Uniform FR (SS) 11.6%
- Uniform FR (LS) 4%
- Polo Non FR (SS) **15.8%**
- Polo Non FR (LS) 3.4%
- Polo FR (SS) 7.3%
- Polo FR (LS) 4.1%
- T-Shirt Non FR (SS) **26.7%**
- T-Shirt Non FR (LS) 8.9%
- T-Shirt FR (SS) 11.3%
- T-Shirt FR (LS) 3.5%
- Synthetic **12.4%**
- None 7%
- Sweatshirt Non FR 9.1%

\* Wet **16.3%**

### Pants:

#### Long:

- Uniform Non-FR 32.5%
- Uniform FR 24.7%

#### Shorts:

- Uniform Non-FR **37.4%**
- Uniform FR **17.8%**
- Synthetic **22.6%**

## MAYDAY - Garments

The fourth perception associated with FR station wear is also a fact. The two standards that refer to station wear both permit the use of non-FR garments.

NFPA<sup>®</sup> 1975: *Standard on Emergency Services Work Clothing Elements* makes flame resistance optional for station wear. NFPA<sup>®</sup> 1500: *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health and Wellness Program* supports NFPA<sup>®</sup> 1975 in the body of the standard, although appendix section A.7.1.5 clarifies:

*Clothing made from 100 percent natural fibers or blends that are principally natural fibers should be selected over other fabrics that have poor thermal stability or that ignite easily.*

*The very fact that members are fire fighters indicates that all clothing that they wear should be inherently flame resistant to give a degree of safety if unanticipated happenings occur that expose the clothing to flame, flash, sparks, or hot substances.*

## **MAYDAY - Garments**

### **COTTON:**

Cotton affords better protection than other fabrics, except FR, remember cotton is a fuel and can ignite if exposed to an ignition source.

### **SYNTHETICS:**

Although NO standard today allows synthetic or synthetic blend fabrics to be worn, for many fire departments they are the station wear fabrics of choice. Unlike FR fabrics, synthetics easily melt, drip, run and add to firefighter injuries.

Non FR (polyester blend) garments, when worn under turnouts with minimum acceptable TPP rating, begins to melt in just 28 seconds, at 350 degrees.

# **Underwear Worn During Mayday**

Wearing of underwear was an across the board issue.

- Polyes
- briefs
- boxer
- Cottor
- briefs
- boxer
- Polyes
- briefs
  
- .3.1 NC underwear worn



**Five reported underwear  
Emergencies  
9 - Critical  
37 - Serious  
54 - steam burns**

# MAYDAY - Garments

**DFND**

## CREATED FOR FIREFIGHTERS. BY FIREFIGHTERS.

The FireDFND performance collection is made with Tencate TechT4 fabric and provides protection and comfort from the inside out. This remarkable innovation brings ease of wear and flame resistant in an incredibly light weight base layer. The FireDFND collection makes the perfect addition to the multi layer, flame resistant clothing systems. Our products will self extinguish and will not ignite!

The FireDFND performance collection is extremely soft, comfortable and anti microbial which will reduce unpleasant odors and is ideal for hot humid environments. FireDFND will enhance your protection level from the inside out!

### TOP FEATURES OF FireDFND PRODUCTS

- Inherently FR
- No chemical treatment and will not wash out
- No Melt, No Drip, No Char
- Highly Breathable and Moisture Wicking
- No shrinking / No fading
- Raglan sleeve design
- Extended length and tail
- Meets ASTM values in coordination with NFPA

### WHY BUY FireDFND PRODUCTS

- Designed by Firefighters for Firefighters
- Reduces heat related injuries & illness
- Maximize work production rates
- Longevity - cost savings
- Collarless 5:1 over cotton
- Disability 5:1 over cotton
- Made in the USA and Berry Compliant



FR PERFORMANCE SS SHIRT  
#FR100



FR PERFORMANCE LS SHIRT  
#FR109



FR WOMENS SS PERFORMANCE SHIRT  
#FR115



FR PERFORMANCE SS SHIRT W/ POCKET  
#FR111



FR PERFORMANCE SHORT  
#FR114



FR PERFORMANCE BOXER  
#FR110



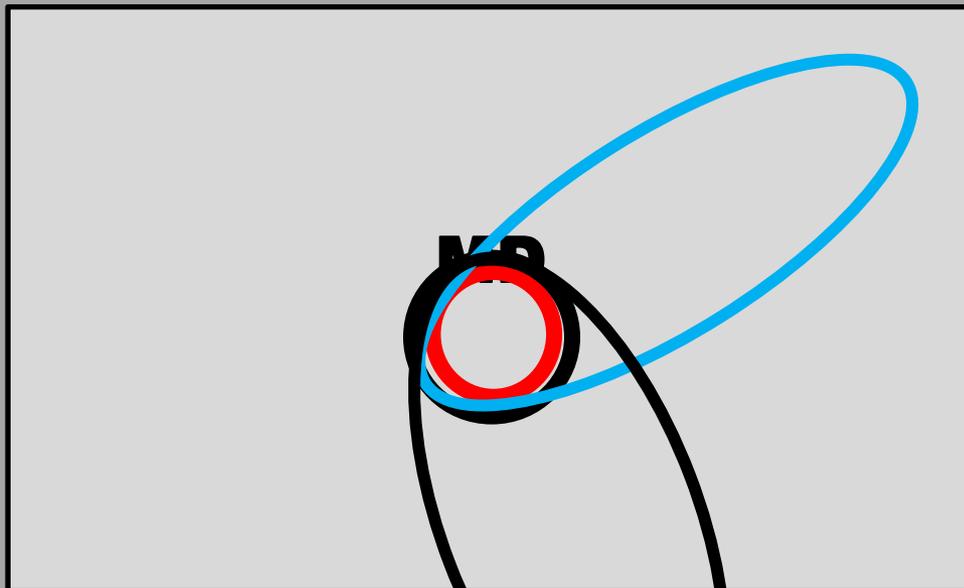
FR PERFORMANCE LONG JOHN  
#FR112

**12,277**

**MAYDAY RESCUES**

- **Self-rescue**      **5,891**      **(47.9%)**
- **Victim's Crew**      **2,947**      **(24%)**
- **Interior Crew**      **1,948**      **(15.8%)**
- **RIT**      **971**      **(7.9%)**
- **Other**      **520**      **(4.2%)**

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**L-1**

**E-2**

**E-3**

**E-1**

**IC**

## COMPONENT 2: Mayday Rescues

### SELF-RESCUES:

- Relocate hose ..... 307
- Low reduce profile ... .... 134
- Wall breach ..... 88
- Wire cutting ..... 91
- Found stairway intact ... 52
- Unknown ..... 322

### Average Time for Self-Rescue:

Average time for Self- Rescue 4 ½ to 7 minutes

(this result is difficult to be exact, because of a lack of actual time stamping from Radio traffic to IC Tactical worksheets, to victims mental time stamping)

## COMPONENT 2: Mayday Rescues

### TOOLS USED IN SELF-RESCUE:

- Hand wire cutters ..... 10%
- Halligan tool ..... 18%
- Axe ..... 12%
- Combination tool ..... 15%
- NO hand tools ..... 36%
- NO personal tools ..... 23%
- Unknown ..... 7%

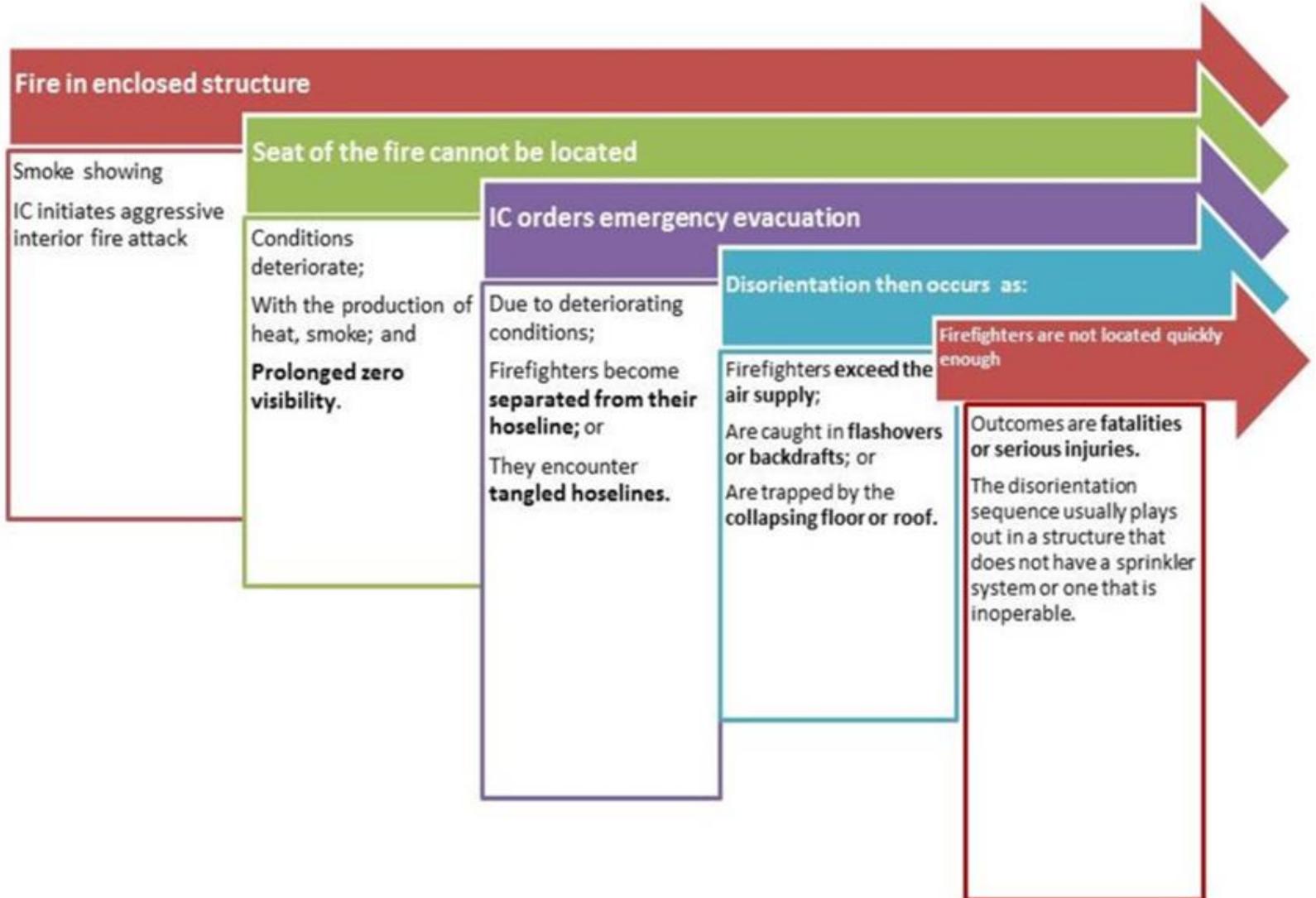
### MAYDAY VICTIM'S REMOVED BY INTERIOR CREWS, TECHNIQUE USED:

- Standing assist ..... 23%
- Walking assist ..... 34%
- Carried ..... 6%
- Dragged ..... 17%
- Stokes, sked, mega mover ..... 14%  
(outside/in)
- Unknown..... 6%

# **10 SURVIVAL STEPS for Lost/Trapped Firefighters**

1. Declare “MAYDAY”
2. **“EA” button activation**
3. Stay calm, preserve your air
4. Activate your PASS **Turn PASS / OFF ..... radio**
5. PCAN report (situation/problem reporting)
6. Stay together – if lost with your crew
7. Follow hose line
8. Retreat to an area of safety
9. Horizontal positioning
10. Flashlight and tool tapping

# COMPONENT 2: Mayday Rescues



## COMPONENT 2: Mayday Rescues

1. Call for a mayday as soon as you realize you cannot safely exit the hazard zone
2. Declare a mayday (x's 3) to ensure priority radio traffic, DO NOT un-key the microphone - give a report that includes:
  - Who - your identity – Unit, Unit riding position, or entire name
  - What – caused the condition(s) of the mayday
  - Where - identify your current location/surroundings or your last know location
  - NEEDS – the needs that will help resolve the mayday (critical) AIR!

## **COMPONENT 2: Mayday Rescues**

3. Calm down and begin self-help/self-rescue techniques
  - Conserve your air.
4. Activate your PASS unit as appropriate.
5. Maintain radio contact with the IC or the Division boss as required.
6. Other Companies – Put the fire out! Stay OFF the radio
  - Mayday Priority and Status change traffic ONLY.
7. Be prepared to assist if you are in a position to do so

Visibility

**ZVC**

**READ THE SMOKE** (volume, velocity, density, color, location)

**NOT** (light, moderate, heavy, thick)

**PZVC**

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**COMPONENT 2: Mayday Rescues**



**CHARLESTON NINE  
MEMORIAL PARK**

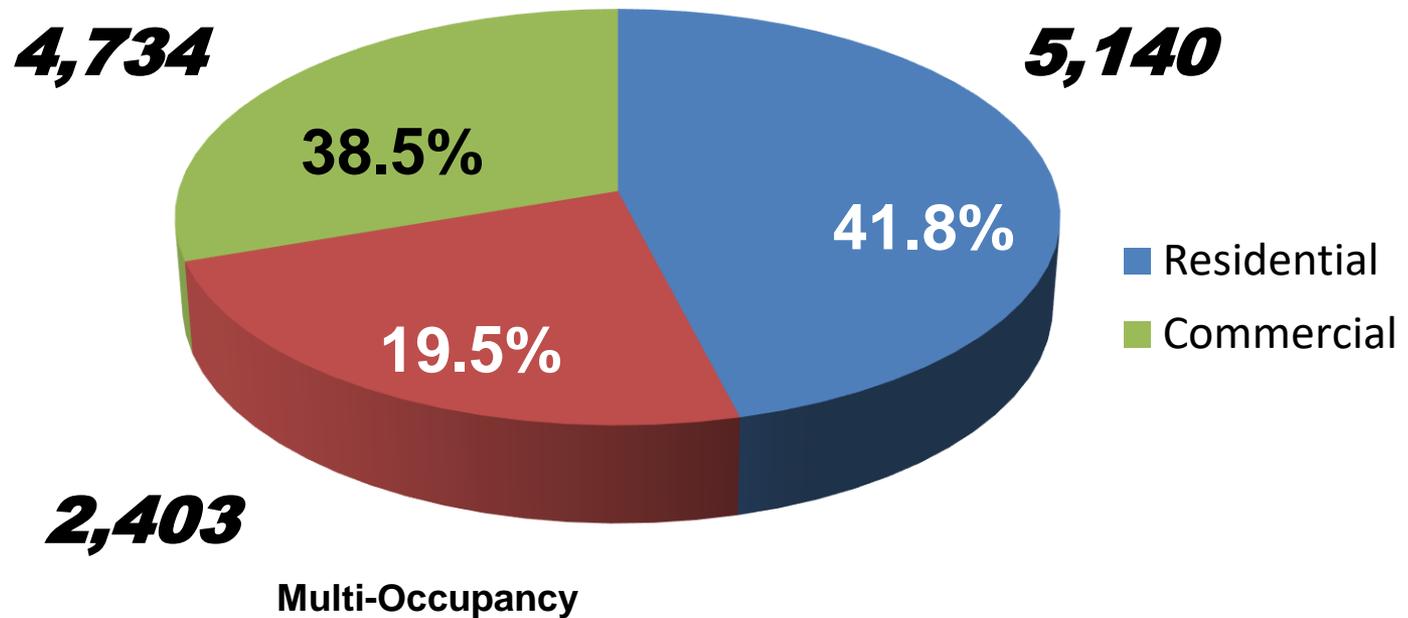
**RISK**

<p><b>HR</b> <b>COMMERCIAL</b> <b>HIGH RISE</b> <b>LF</b></p>	<p><b>HR</b> <b>RESIDENTIAL</b> <b>HF</b></p>
<p><b>LR</b> <b>MULTI-OCCUPANCY</b> <b>LF</b></p>	<p><b>LR</b> <b>HF</b></p>

**FREQUENCY**

# **COMPONENT 2: TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION/ OCCUPANCY**

## **Types of Construction/Occupancy**



**12,277**

# **COMPONENT 2: Residential Construction/ Occupancy**



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# **COMPONENT 2: Residential Construction/ Occupancy**



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# **RESIDENTIAL MAYDAYS**

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<p><b>HIGH RISK    LOW FREQUENCY</b></p> <p><b>Entanglement</b></p>	<p><b>HIGH RISK    HIGH FREQUENCY</b></p> <p><b>SCBA issues</b> <b>Lost/Separated from hose line - Falls through roof</b> <b>Fall into Holes/Floor Collapse</b> <b>Flashovers</b></p>
<p><b>LOW RISK    LOW FREQUENCY</b></p>	<p><b>LOW RISK    HIGH FREQUENCY</b></p>

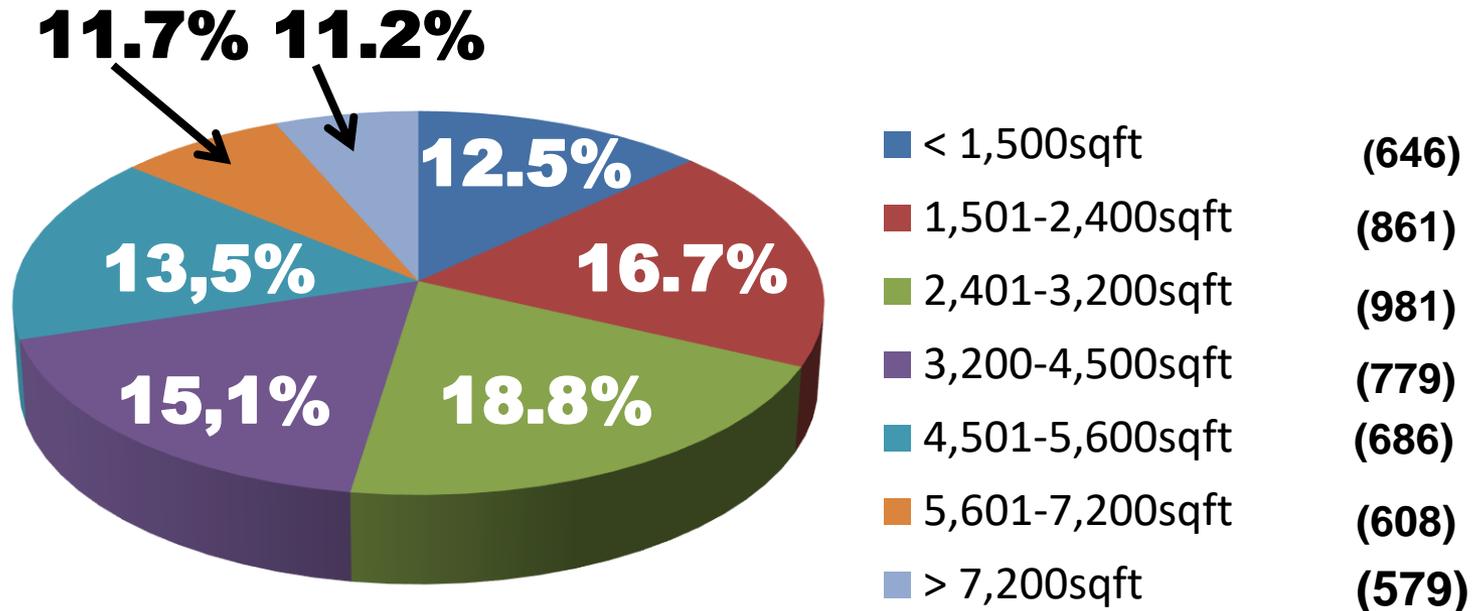
**FREQUENCY**

# COMPONENT 2: Residential Construction/ Occupancy

## Residential Construction/Occupancy

**CAREER**

**41.8%**



**VB/AB**  
**18%**

**5,140**

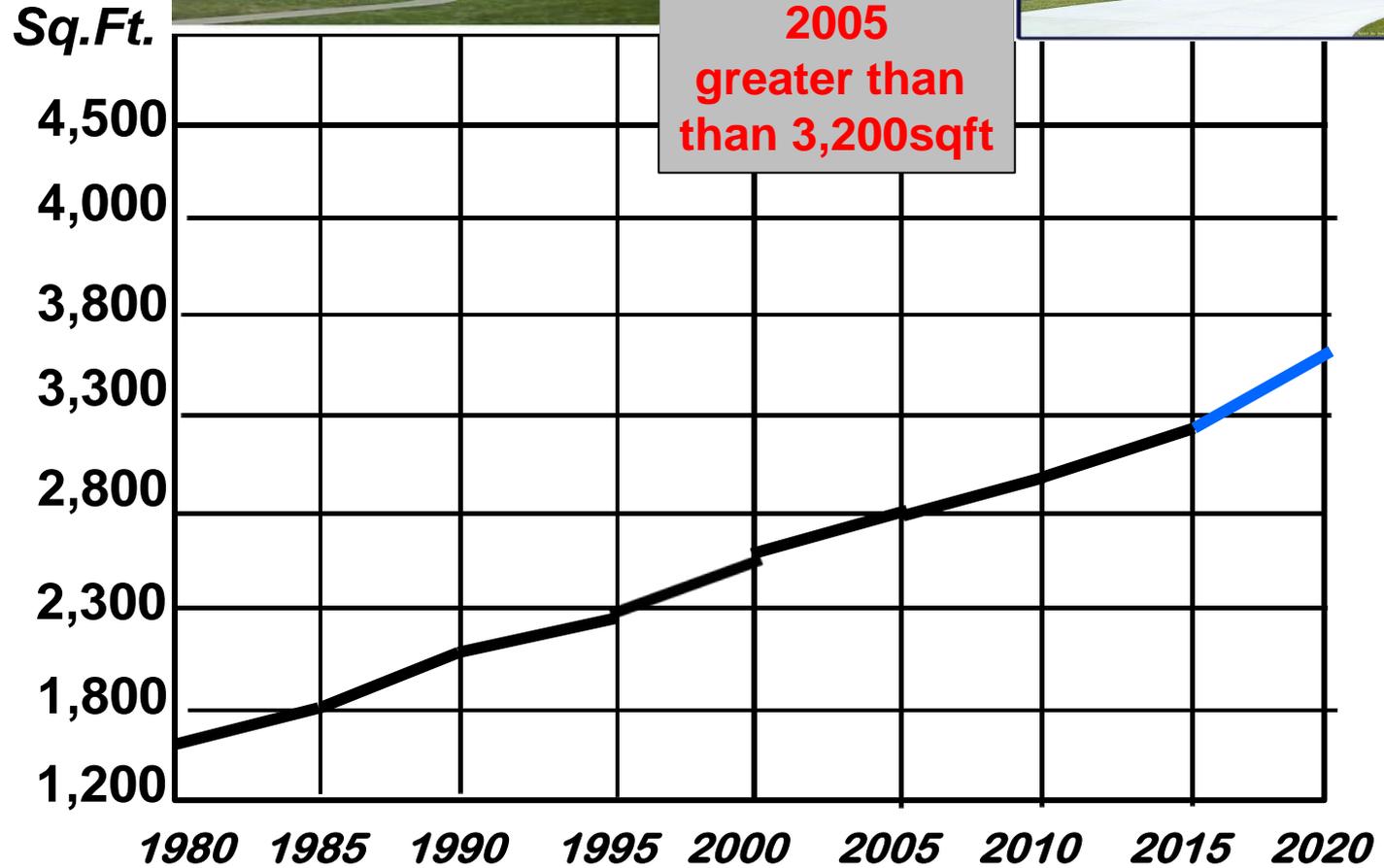
**COMPONENT 2: Residential Construction/  
Occupancy**

<u>Size</u>	<u>Numbers</u>	<u>1 Story</u>	<u>2 Story</u>	<u>3 Story</u>	<u>Basement</u>
< 1,500sqft	(641)	559	82		239
1,501-2,400sqft	(861)	562	299		274
2,401-3,200sqft	(981)		216	62	309
3,201-4,500sqft	(677)	326	208	143	371
4,501-5,600sqft	(481)	104	172	196	288
5,601-7,200sqft	(369)	89	183	97	231
> 7,200sqft	(334)	77	133	124	215

# COMPONENT 2: TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION/ OCCUPANCY



**34%  
of residences  
built since  
2005  
greater than  
than 3,200sqft**



**COMPONENT 2: TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION/  
OCCUPANCY**



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# **SEARCH**

**LARGE AREAS  
MULTIPLE LEVELS  
MULTIPLE VICTIMS**

**DOOR SWING  
(Rule of Thumb)**

**TOWARD YOU**

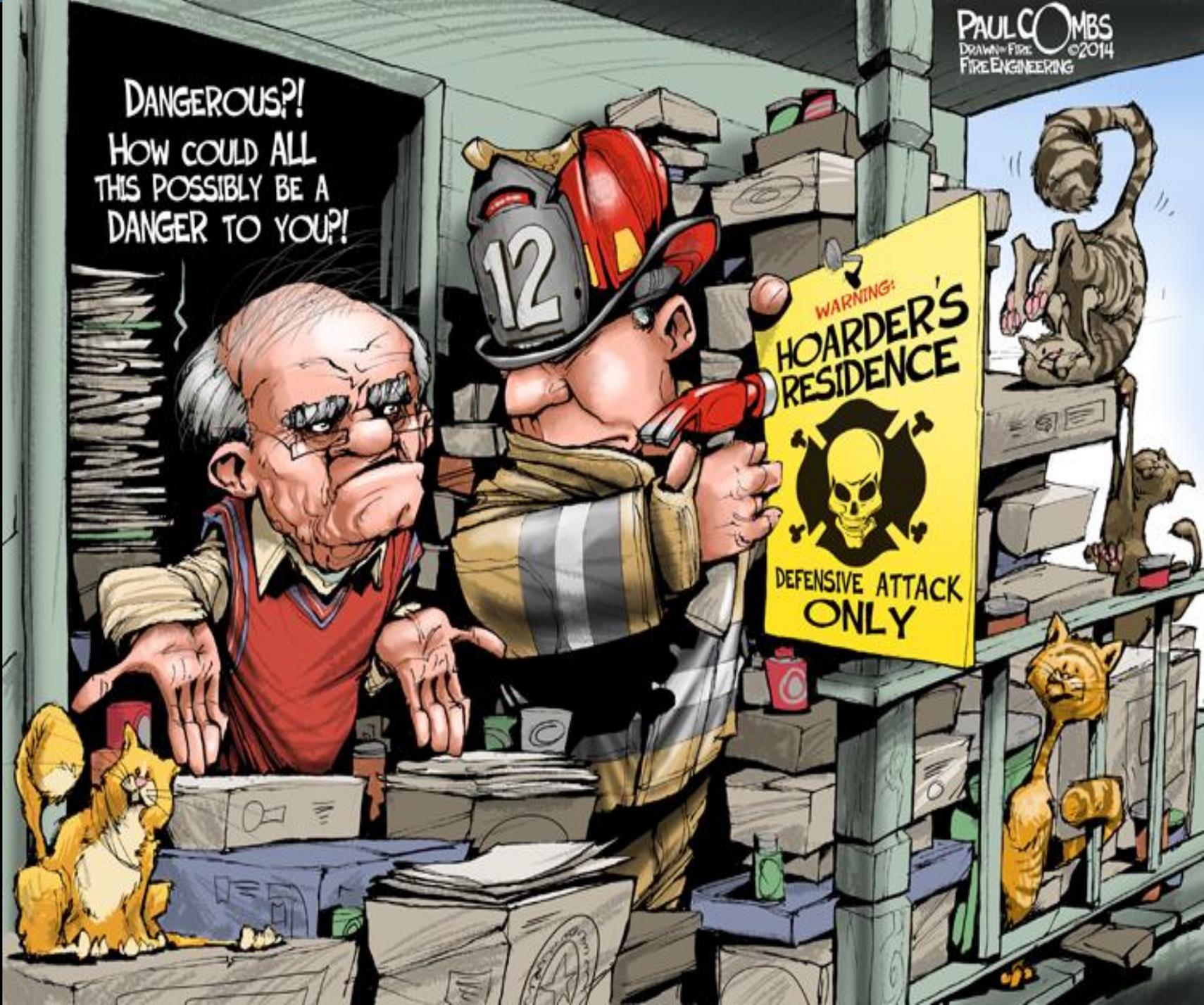
**Closets / Level Changes (Basements/Attic)**

**AWAY FROM YOU**

**other rooms**

**Room Description**

DANGEROUS?!  
HOW COULD ALL  
THIS POSSIBLY BE A  
DANGER TO YOU?!



# HOARDER HOUSE



**HOARDER  
HOUSES  
1,486**

**SLOW DOWN  
ID 2<sup>nd</sup> Exit**

**Don't Over Crowd the Interior  
ALL Crews should have a TIC**

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**RESIDENTIAL:**



# COMPONENT 2: Multi-Occupancy Construction



# COMPONENT 2: Multi-Occupancy Construction







# Multi-Occupancy MAYDAYS

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<p>HIGH RISK    LOW FREQUENCY</p> <p>Falls into holes or floor collapse Entanglement</p>	<p>HIGH RISK    HIGH FREQUENCY</p> <p>SCBA problem Lost/Separated from hose line</p>
<p>LOW RISK    LOW FREQUENCY</p>	<p>LOW RISK    HIGH FREQUENCY</p>

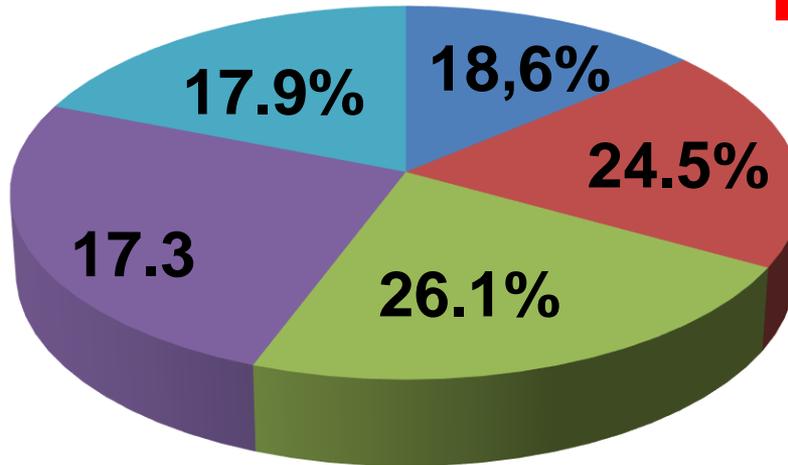
FREQUENCY

# COMPONENT 2: Multi Occupancy Construction

**CAREER**

## Multi-Occupancy Construction

**19.5%**



- < 800sqft (449)
- 801 - 1,200sqft (577)
- 1,201 - 2,000sqft (629)
- 2,001 - 2,800sqft (317)
- > 2,800sqft (432)

**2,403**

## COMPONENT 2: Multi Occupancy Construction

<u>Size</u>	<u>Numbers</u>	<u>1 Story</u>	<u>2 Story</u>	<u>3 Story</u>	<u>4 Story</u>
< 800 sqft 4units (72), 8units (219) 16units (158)	(449)	289	106	54	
801-1,200 sqft 8units (242) (8) units () 24units (106)	(577)	198	232	147	
1,201-2,000sqft 16units (288), 24 units (238) 32units (103)	(629)	233	209	187	
2,001-2,800sqft 16units (96), 24units (67) 32units + (154)	(317)	116	123	79	31
> 2,800sqft	(43)	91	77	116	128+

## **COMPONENT 2: Apartment Construction/Occupancy**

- **When dealing with apartment fires we struggle with .....**
  - **getting crews in the apartment above the fire**
  - **working the side with the most exposure**
  - **working mirrored apartments backside**
  - **working center enclosed utility chases**
  - **apartments with center hallways, attempting to make one end with a stairway as smoke free as possible for occupants exit**
  - **advancing lines over balconies and pulled to the fire floor**

# COMPONENT 2: Commercial Construction / Occupancy



# **COMPONENT 2: Commercial Construction / Occupancy**



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# **Commercial MAYDAYS**

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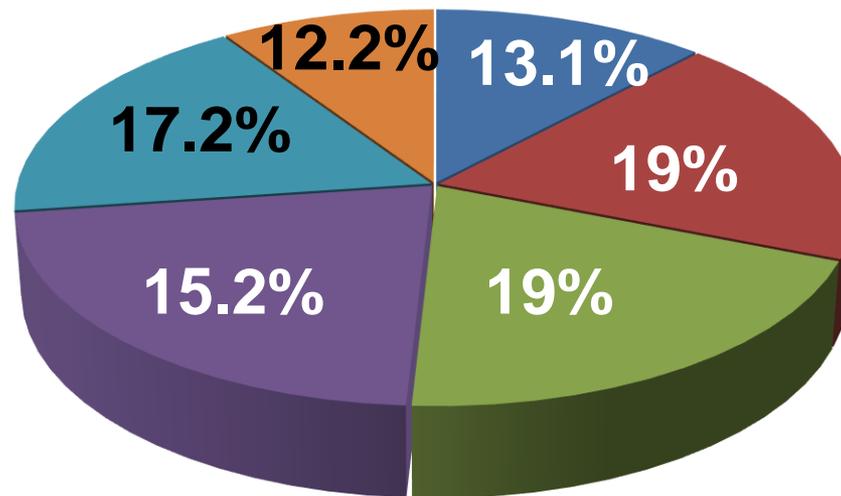
<p><b>HIGH RISK    LOW FREQUENCY</b></p> <p><b>Fall into Hole/Floor collapse Entanglement Falls through roof</b></p>	<p><b>HIGH RISK    HIGH FREQUENCY</b></p> <p><b>Lost/Separated from hose line SCBA issues</b></p>
<p><b>LOW RISK    LOW FREQUENCY</b></p> <p><b>Medical</b></p>	<p><b>LOW RISK    HIGH FREQUENCY</b></p> <p><b>Communications</b></p>

**FREQUENCY**

# COMPONENT 2: Commercial Construction / Occupancy

## Commercial Construction / Occupancy

**38.5 %**



- < 35.000sqft (769)
- 35,000 - 50,000sqft (761)
- 50,000 - 100,000sqft (871)
- 100,000 - 200,000sqft (788)
- 200,000 - 350,000sqft (814)
- > 350,000sqft (731)

**AB/VA**  
**27.4%**

Below grade (229)

**4,734**



**1,782 Wal-Marts  
819 SuperCenters**

- **One to five stories**
- **Wal-Mart (156,000sqft-188,200sqft)**
  - **SuperCenters (456,000sqft)**
  - **MegaMart 2,400,600sqft)**
- **Concrete Block and Tilt Wall**
- **Stores built before 1992, may have partial basements**
  - **Some vacant stores, are not vacant, but used display and other storage and from 11-15 to 12-29 are used for christmas stock**



**Wal Marts burn too**





# COMPONENT 2: Commercial Construction / Occupancy



**COMPONENT 2: Commercial Construction /  
Occupancy**

<b>Warehousing:</b>	<b>851</b>
<b>Manufacturing:</b>	<b>757</b>
<b>Churches:</b>	<b>224</b>
<b>School:</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Storage:</b>	<b>898</b>
<b>Retail:</b>	<b>1,941 (1,172 - Strip Malls)</b>

**4,734**

**COMMERICAL:**

**MESSAGE**

**If you find yourself in a BIG BOX  
or warehouse fire on your knees...**

**YOU SHOULD BE  
PRAYING**

## COMPONENT 2: Commercial Construction / Occupancy

### NEW VERSION OF TAXPAYERS

Second floor could be apartments,  
offices, or storage.

***BE PREPARED***



**COMPONENT 2: Commercial Construction / Occupancy**



## **COMPONENT 2: Commercial Construction / Occupancy**

- Ceiling Collapse, 150ft hose line (3")
- SCBA Regulator problem, 200ft hose line
- Separated from hose line, 250ft hose line
- Shelving collapse, (2), 200ft hose line
- Flashover, (4) 200ft hose line
- Fell through Roof (2)
- Lost off hose line, 200ft hose line
- Medical (diabetic)
- Separated from hose line, 250ft hose line
- Flashover
- Fell into Pit
- Out of Air, 250ft hose line
- Lost off hose line, 200ft hose line
- Ceiling collapse
- Loss communication
- Separated from hose line, 300ft hose line
- Overhead door came down
- Facepiece problem
- Low alarm, 250ft hose line
- Near electrocution
- Fell down elevator shaft



**It's all that stuff getting wet that may come  
and get YOU**

**COMMERCIAL: Fire Protection**

**Why some sprinklers and standpipes FAIL**



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# **HIGH RISE MAYDAYS**

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<p><b>HIGH RISK    LOW FREQUENCY</b></p> <p><b>SCBA issue</b> <b>Communication issues</b></p>	<p><b>HIGH RISK    HIGH FREQUENCY</b></p> <p><b>Fatigue / Stress (fitness)</b> <b>Cardiac</b> <b>Lost/Separated from hose line</b></p>
<p><b>LOW RISK    LOW FREQUENCY</b></p>	<p><b>LOW RISK    HIGH FREQUENCY</b></p> <p><b>Locked doors</b></p>

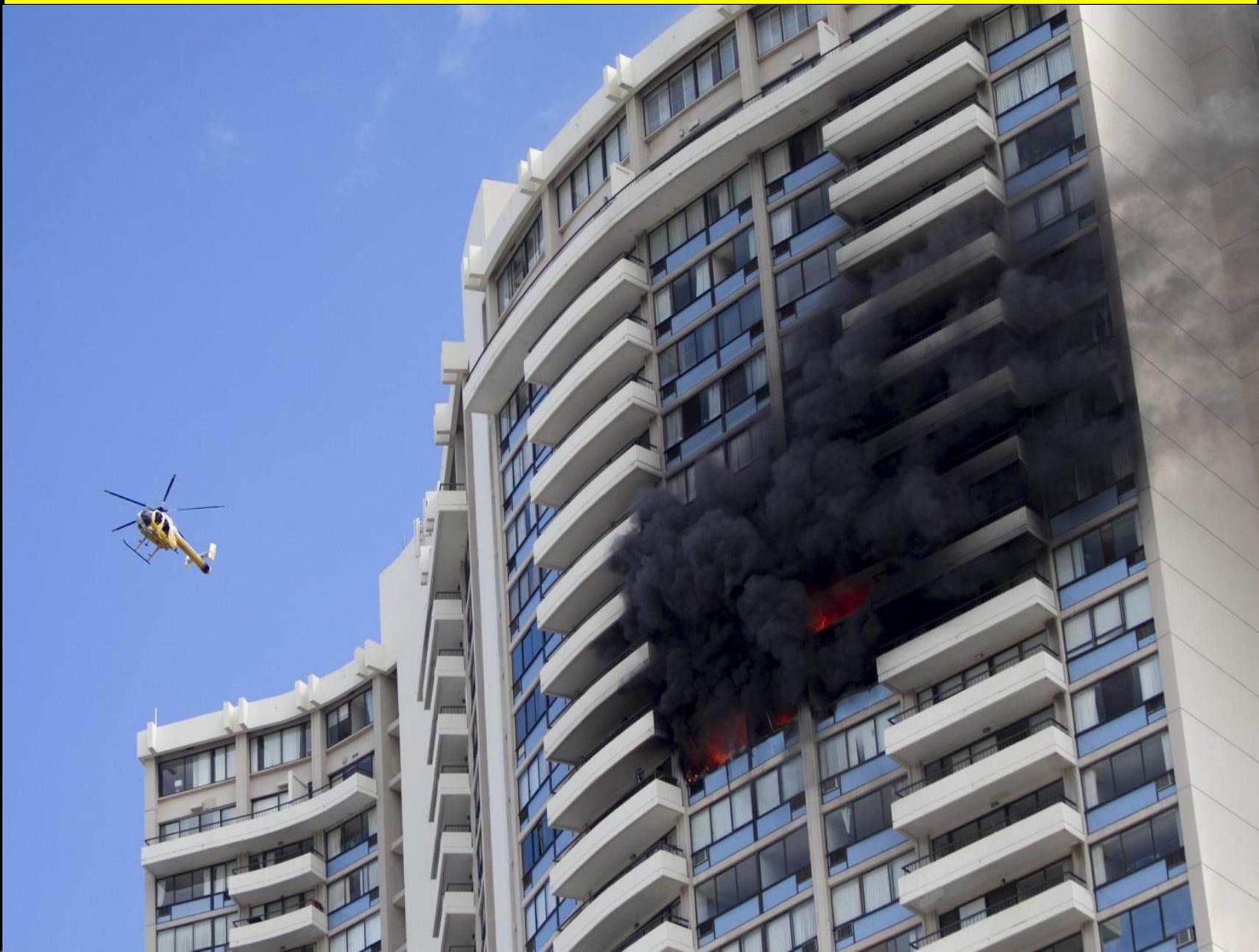
**FREQUENCY**

## HI-RISE OPERATIONS:

- **Mid Rise (1-7 floors)**  
Maydays ..... 520
  - Medical - 171
  - Air Problem – 136
  - Lost/Separated from Hose Line – 194
  - Trapped, Unable to Move – 19
  
- **High Rise (8 – 32+)**  
Maydays ..... 386
  - Medical - 157 **(1)**
  - Air Problem – 92**(2)**
  - Lost/Separated from Hose Line – 79 **((1))**
  - Communication – 58\*

# HI-RISE OPERATIONS:

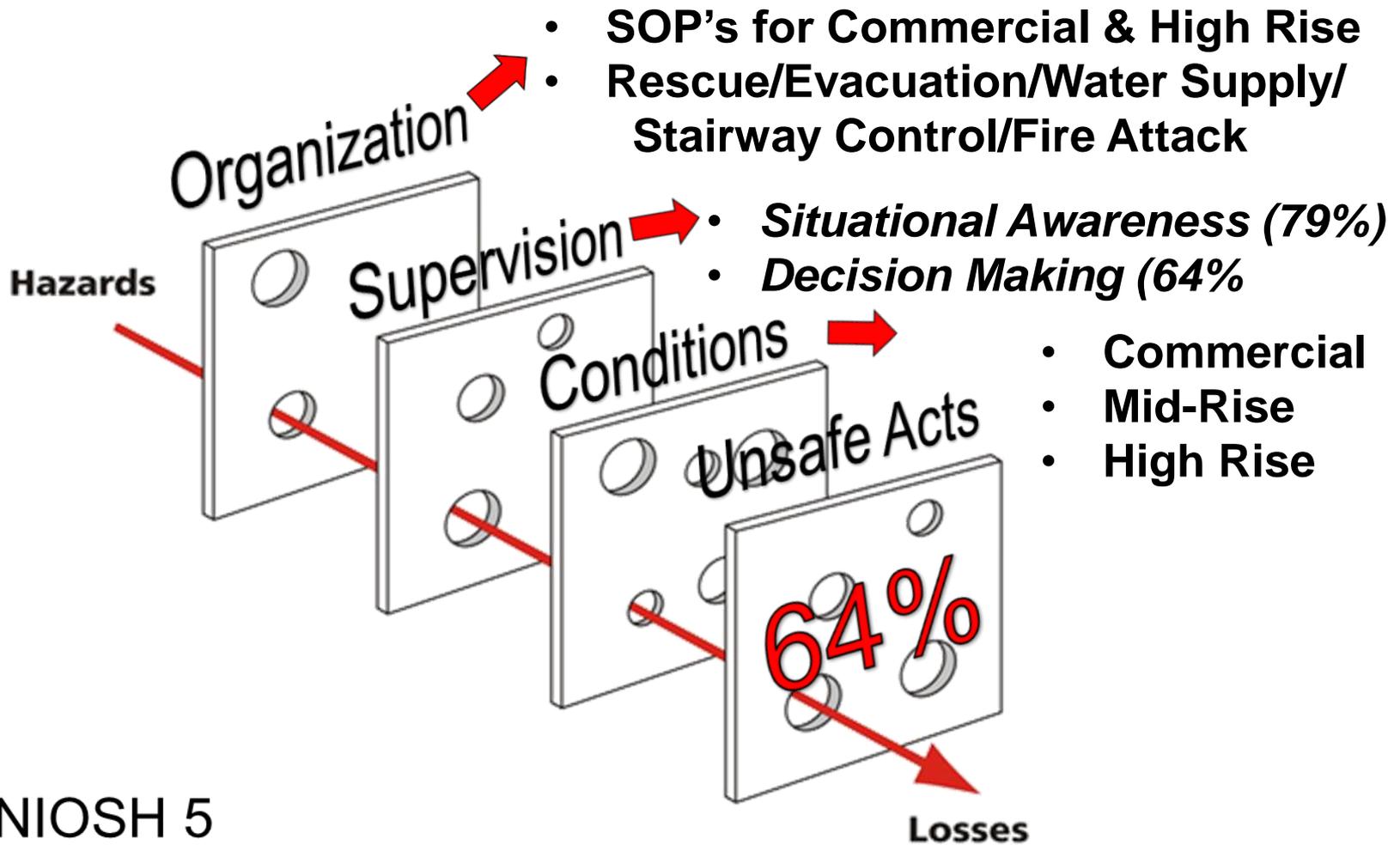
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# HI-RISE OPERATIONS:





### NIOSH 5

1. Improper Risk Assessment.
2. Lack of Incident Command.
3. Lack of SOPs or failure to follow established SOPs.

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**The only way to  
guarantee a successful  
outcome of a “MAYDAY”  
is to  
PREVENT IT !**

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**PAUL COMBS**  
ArtStudioServices.com ©2010  
Fire Enforcement



# ***Everyday Operations:***

## ***SOPs:***

**Normalization of unsafe practices can occur as a result of the fact that other individuals take the fact that other individuals take the same (incorrect or unsafe) actions. If, in general, nothing bad happens as a result of unsafe practice, and if everyone else in the organization participates in the same practices, then these practices become part of the normal and accepted way of accomplishing tasks. As a result, fire organizations history and traditions, can create a culture that is difficult to change**

# SOP's (great example)

Long Beach Fire Department



## Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC)

January 7, 2019

Operational Procedures Manual

***Establish the Common Terminology:***

- Priority Traffic
  - Urgent
    - Emergency
    - Emergency Traffic
- MAYDAY**

**TERMINOLOGY**

**If you fail to train...  
you train to fail**

**NFPA 1001 ... does mention much  
about MAYDAYS, except they  
happen ....**

# ***FIRE DEPARTMENT*** **TRAINING**

**The trick is to embed firefighter's behavior in the subconscious, so that it becomes automatic this is only done by repeated and realistic training with measured competencies every six months.**

# INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM

## PRE – MAYDAY ACTIVITIES

### Training:

- Did you participate in Mayday training in the last 24 months... YES...21%
- in the last 12 months...YES...11%
- multi-company: ..... 7%
- night Mayday exercise: ..... 6%
- rescue/recovery/packaging/removal: ..... 26%
- sound effects/obstacle: ..... 57%
- training/Mayday run by BC: ..... 28%
- accountability tags/PARs: ..... 23%
- package handoff to EMS (involvement): ..... 9%
- does your FD conduct air consumption assessment annually? YES ..... 17%

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**HOW OFTEN DOES  
YOUR FD,  
DO LADDER  
TRAINING and  
RESCUES with  
LADDERS**

## **Positive Pressure Ventilation**

- **Things get better. Keep Going**
- **Things stay the same. Make adjustments**
- **Things get worst. Make sure PPV is OFF**

# MAYDAY TRAINING – TIC's



Hands Free, Thermal  
In Mask Imaging System



Easily Accessible  
IMD Power Button



- **Wind-Winds as low as 3 MPH can cut temperatures measurements by as much as 50%**
- **Moisture: Long wave infrared energy can be blocked or dissipated as it moves through steam Environments with sprinkler heads flowing or high moisture content may limit or block the TIC's ability to measure or see. The lens of the TIC may become obscured with moisture preventing it from working properly.**
- **Optical density of the smoke, thicker smoke, type materials burning can absorb more energy between the target and the fire. The TIC reduces contrast transfer, which is the ability to discern details between different temperatures of objects at a distance.**

## MAYDAY TRAINING: TIC's

### The five “deadly sins” in TIC's

- Standing or walking in dangerous environments
- Forgetting traditional safety considerations and search techniques
- Advancing at an inappropriate speed
- Misinterpreting the thermal image
- Having unrealistic expectations when using the image

### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TIC's before YOU BUY? (*techno-mumbo-jumbo* (DECODE))

- Dynamic Range    - Field of View    - Resolution
- Focal Plane Array    - NETD/MRTD    - Update Speed
- Spectral Response

***TICs DO NOT read air temperature, they READ SURFACE temperature***

# MAYDAY TRAINING

## 7 Color/Temperature Associations In *Firefighting Mode*

COLD	HOT	392 F	865 F	932 F	1247 F	1562 F
Subjective	Subjective	SCBA face piece Lens nearing FAILURE	Nomex hoods Char & Burn at 572 degree degrees F	Lean Flashover is occurring Fire gas ignitions, rollover, and PBI outer shell begins to fail	Flashover occurred injury and death	SCBA cylinder
						

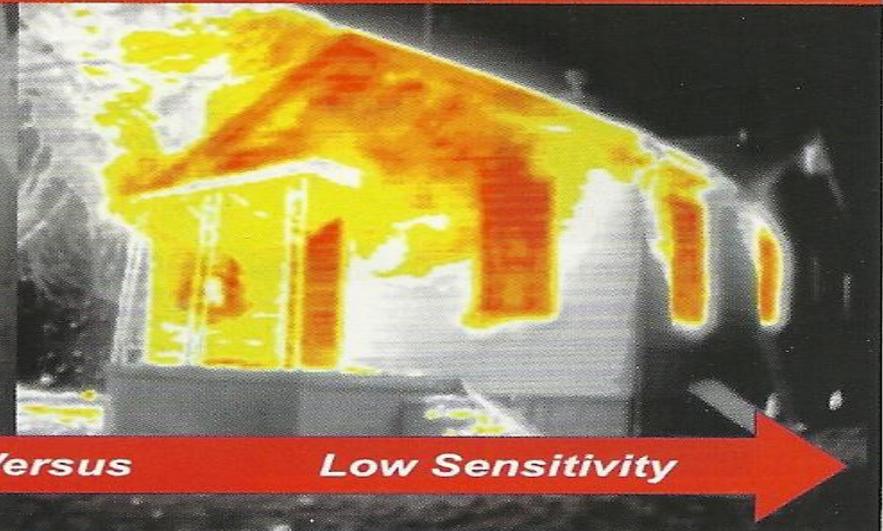
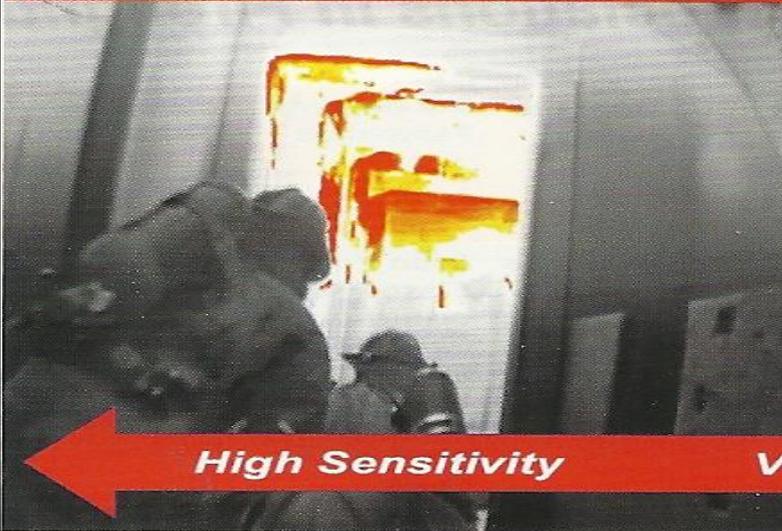
- *Low sensitivity Mode indicates high heat conditions and should NOT be ignored*
- *High sensitivity Mode equates to 300F and lower, allows for more details in image, better decision making.*

- \* *Distance to Spot Ratio: TIC's ability to see, longer distances allows for increased thermal situational awareness This often leads to FAILURE to detect dangerous levels of heat until they are to close for comfort (safety)*

# MAYDAY TRAINING

Red: 270 Degrees Fahrenheit

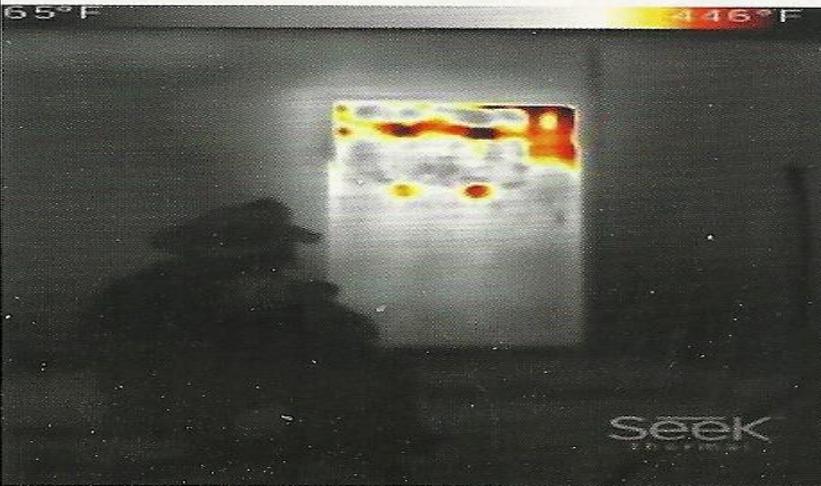
Red: 1400-1700 Degrees Fahrenheit



High Sensitivity

Versus

Low Sensitivity



Low Sensitivity

VS.

High Sensitivity

# MAYDAY TRAINING

Medium Sensitivity: 0-500+Degrees

Seconds  
Later

Low Sensitivity: 0-2000 Degrees

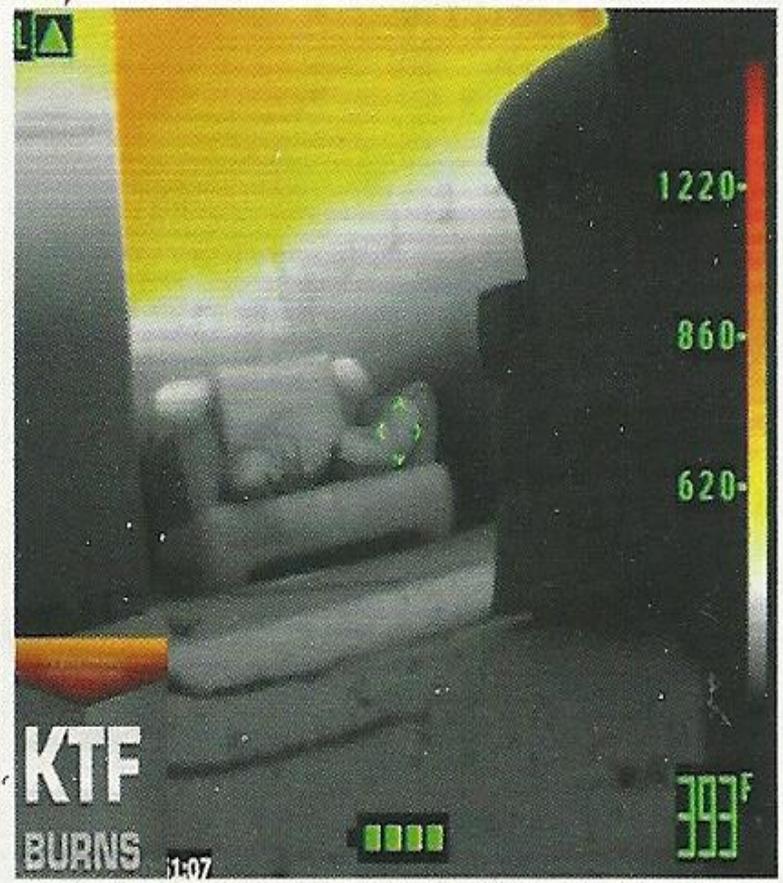
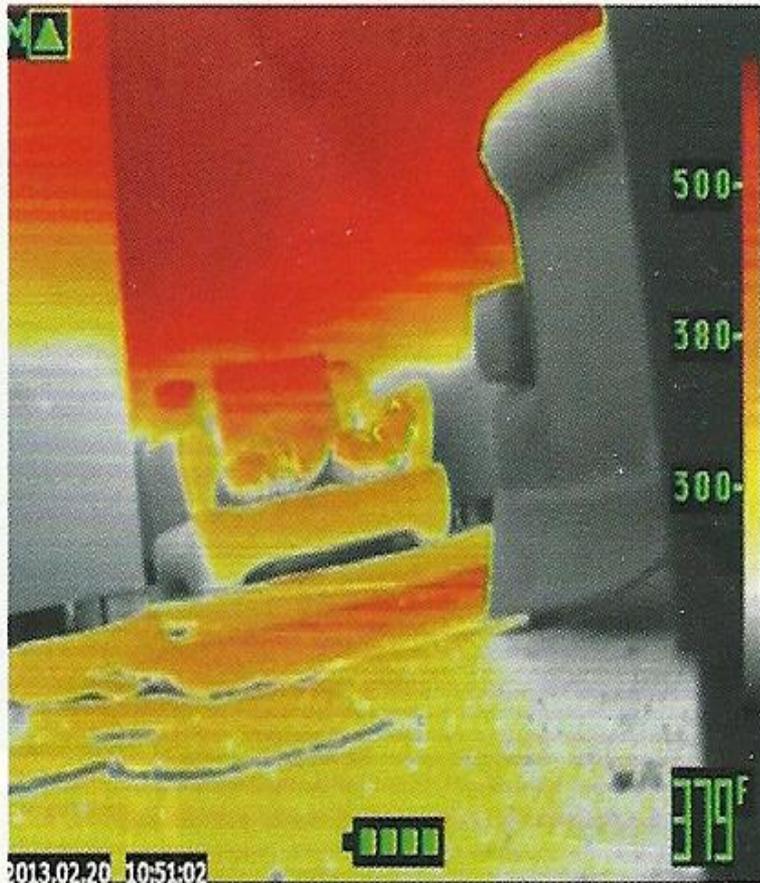


Photo Courtesy of Project Kill the Flashover

## MAYDAY Operations / RIT

### RIT Operation / RIT:

- Who in the crew carries the TIC?
  - 1<sup>st</sup> FF/CO **(Advantage: moves quickly through structure)**  
**(Disadvantage: becomes complacent, can lose situational awareness quickly, when MD FF is found, often (86%) the TIC is put down and no longer used, it may be needed for extraction lead the team out of the structure)**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>FF/CO **(view may be blocked by the first FF or reflective stripe may cause slow TIC picture recovery)**
- Are FF/CO trained with TIC during rescue operations, are they trained and practice image interpretation.
  - FF Protective clothing can absorb significantly more heat than civilian clothing. A FF could appear as white / gray on the TIC display

## **MAYDAY Operations / RIT**

### **RIT Operation / RIT:**

- **Checking to see if FF is still breathing, use your TIC to check the SCBA cylinder and regulator for color, if your TIC shows black or dark, there is still air flowing if opposite in color, this is not a good indicator.**
- **TIC can be used to determine MD FF is breathing/ or there is air flowing, by aiming the TIC at the facepiece and the regulator.**
- **Shapes FF, cylinder, facepiece, and helmet stand out.**

MAYDAY TRAINING

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**HEATED  
UP**

**Electric Blanket**

# MAYDAY TRAINING

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**YOU CAN'T TRAIN  
TOO MUCH FOR A  
JOB THAT CAN  
KILL YOU**

# MAYDAY TRAINING

## Residential Structure Fire

### RIC Scenario #1

#### Self-Extrication by Unit Calling the MAYDAY

A first alarm assignment has been dispatched to a working structure fire. The first due Engine arrives, sizes up the fire, gives a report on conditions, establishes Incident Command and initiates their initial Incident Action Plan, engaging in interior fire attack operations with their crew.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Arriving BC

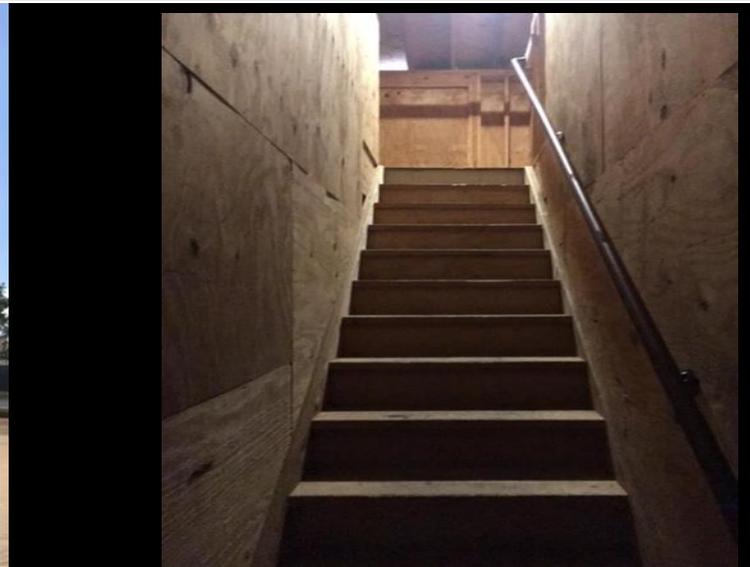
- Arrive on scene
- Contact 1<sup>st</sup> Due Engine IC and obtain transfer of command

#### Transfer of Command

- Situation Status
- Incident Objectives and Priorities
- Incident Action Plan (Actions taken)
- Current Organization
- Resource assignments
- Resource needs (en route or ordered)
- Communications Plan
- Incident Potential (prognosis, concerns, related issues)
- Announce the establishment of your command and identify CP location
- Confirm/Validate incident priorities
  - Life Safety
  - Incident Stabilization
  - Property Conservation
  - Environmental Protection

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# MAYDAY TRAINING City of Fairfax, VA RIT/RESCUE House



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**MAYDAY TRAINING**



# MAYDAY TRAINING

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**MAYDAY TRAINING Host Avon,IN FD Hendricks Co**

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# MAYDAY TRAINING

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# MAYDAY TRAINING

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# MAYDAY Radio Call

**LUNER**

**GRAB LIVES**

**NUCAN**

**PGA**

**UCAN**

**LIP**

**LAPN**

**TERMINOLOGY**

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## **TRAINING and DISPATCHERS**



## **MAYDAY - Contributing Factors to Maydays**

### **“GO, NO GO”**

**Recruit training, manageable fires in concrete structures, minimize any potential of getting worst or a collapse, WHY would a crew ever make a “NO GO” decision. We create automatic habits, with “NO-GO” decisions. BAD SITUATION, They default to “GO” their training, NO thought required.**

**TRY putting a  
firefighter in reverse  
WHY?**

**We only teach them  
to go forward!**

# CHARLESTON FIRE

No one on the scene of the fire heard any of this radio traffic, which I would attribute to the ambient noise and confusion at the scene and the total lack of a command presence. In effect no one at the scene was listening to the radio. The Chief and the Assistant Chief were talking but not listening, which appeared to be a habitual situation in Charleston. In fact, the Chief told us that the firefighters had radios so that they could listen to orders; if they were talking they were not working. They were allowed to use the radio if they got into trouble, *but no one was listening!*

The Fire Chief claimed that he was in command of the incident at that time, but he was on side D toward the rear of the building directly supervising the crews in that area. He had left the Assistant Chief at the front of the building, but the AC became personally involved in the mission to rescue a civilian from the rear of the building right at the time things started going bad (19:27). He went around to the rear to lead that mission.

The dispatchers heard the radio traffic, but they thought it was related to the successful rescue of the civilian that was occurring at the same time at the rear of the building. A Battalion Chief who was in quarters on the opposite side of town also heard it and called the dispatchers on the phone. They told him it was related to the civilian rescue and that they had just received word that the civilian had been rescued.

An off-duty Battalion Chief (303) who was on route to the fire in his personal vehicle heard the radio traffic and interpreted it correctly. He tried to call the Fire Chief using his portable, but did not receive a response. He rushed to the scene and informed the Fire Chief face-to-face. The Chief then called the Assistant Chief who was returning to the front of the building at that moment and asked him if someone was still inside. They went through some additional confusion as both of them were headed toward the front of the building.

It was after arriving at the front of the building and seeing that the building was filled with smoke that the Fire Chief gave the order to take out the front windows, thinking that it would allow some of the smoke to escape and provide visibility. By that time a flashover was virtually inevitable and breaking the windows simply accelerated the pace by allowing fresh air to enter more quickly. At that time they thought that there was only one captain inside; they had no accountability system and therefore no idea that they had at least nine firefighters inside. Three others found their way out just before the windows were being broken. There were attempts to make entry to search for the missing firefighters after the windows were broken, but the searchers were getting burned within 20 feet of the front doors.

The elapsed time from the first indication of a Mayday situation to breaking the front windows was about eight minutes. The radio transmissions ended after seven minutes.

19:27 - First radio transmissions indicating firefighters in distress

19:30 - Battalion Chief 303 on route attempted to reach the Fire Chief

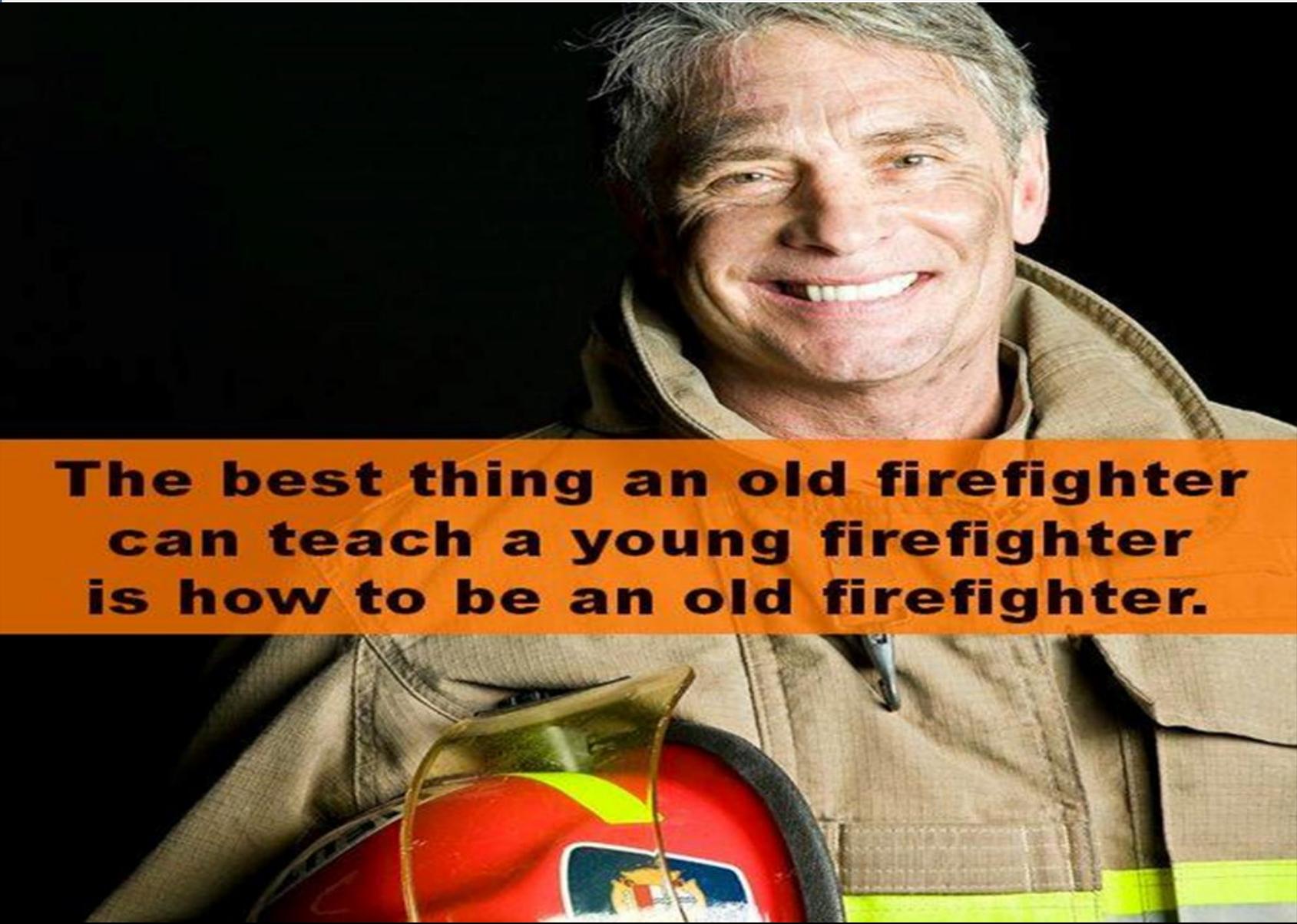
19:31 - Battalion Chief 5 in quarters calls dispatchers

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**260F**

**MESSAGE**



**The best thing an old firefighter  
can teach a young firefighter  
is how to be an old firefighter.**

# TRAINING TIPS

MAKE EVERY SECOND COUNT.



### THE SECOND GEN BLASTMASK

BlastMask is proud to introduce our second-generation Training Regulators with enhanced features designed specifically for firefighter training.

- 1 EASY AIR BYPASS VALVE**  
Just like on your SCBA regulator, gain instant access to full air with the turn of a knob.
- 2 SLIDE LATCH**  
Rugged, reengineered slide latch attaches BlastMask to facepiece just like an SCBA regulator.
- 3 SUPERIOR CONSTRUCTION**  
New and improved polycarbonate resin for high-impact resistance and strength is the same material used in police riot gear and bulletproof glass.



MSA GI



Scott® AV-3000



Scott® AV-2000

MODELS ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR THESE FACEPIECES

### PHYSICAL AND MENTAL PREPAREDNESS

- Help prevent line-of-duty deaths; more than 50% can be attributed to stress and overexertion
- Help prevent firefighter injuries; nearly 30% are due to lack of fitness
- Conduct multiple training and fitness exercises with and without SCBA pack
- Confidence and performance from increased familiarity with equipment
- Effective tool for recruitment, physical ability testing, and orientation

### BUDGET AND RESOURCE FRIENDLY

- Fire service fitness initiatives have shown a decrease in lost workdays of 28%
- Every dollar spent on uniformed personnel wellness returns over two dollars in occupational injury and illness costs
- Decrease wear and tear on expensive SCBA regulators
- Save manpower and time it takes to refill cylinders
- Keep resources ready to fight fires

### TACTICAL TRAINING IS CRITICAL

In the line of duty, an SCBA regulator and pack weight reduce VO<sub>2</sub> max (maximal oxygen consumption) by 14.9% - primarily from the regulator. Additionally, peak power output and SPO<sub>2</sub> (oxyhemoglobin saturation) are decreased by the regulator alone. TRAINING IN A FACEPIECE AND PACK ALONE DOES NOT REDUCE VO<sub>2</sub> MAX, PEAK POWER OUTPUT AND SPO<sub>2</sub>.

TRAINING WITH AND WITHOUT BLASTMASK:

	PEAK POWER & SPO <sub>2</sub> REDUCTION	VO <sub>2</sub> MAX REDUCTION
SCBA PACK ONLY	X	4.8%
BLASTMASK (W/O SCBA PACK)	✓	13.1%
BLASTMASK (WITH SCBA PACK)	✓	14.9%
SCBA ON AIR	✓	14.9%



“BEING FIT FOR DUTY IS THE MOST BASIC REQUIREMENT FOR EVERY FIREFIGHTER - BOTH CAREER AND VOLUNTEER.”

FIRE ENGINEERING MAGAZINE

Scott® AV-2000 and Scott® AV-3000 are registered and/or unregistered marks of Scott Technologies, Inc. or its affiliates. MSA GI is a registered and/or unregistered mark of MSA.

# TRAINING TIPS

## What are Eclipse Blackout Masks?

Eclipse Blackout Masks are the brainchild of four San Diego-area firefighters from the same crew, with more than 40 years of combined experience, that wanted to create a hassle-free mask to better replicate smoky conditions for more effective in-service training.

The easy to apply mask is fogged out to create realistic smoke conditions. The reusable, durable static-cling sticker affixes to the mask exterior without leaving any residue or damaging expensive equipment. The red and yellow outline ensures there is no risk of accidentally leaving it on when going to a call.

With the Eclipse Blackout Mask, there is no need for home-made solutions that risk leaving residue, costly smoke machines, or expensive commercial options that require extra parts or affix to the inside of your mask.

Join the countless fire agencies that have switched to using Eclipse Blackout Masks for the most efficient, cost-effective, high quality training mask on the market.

Replicates an IDLH environment



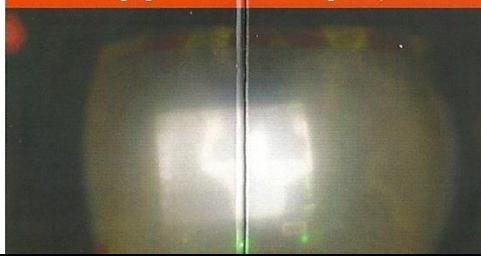
Easy to apply



Reusable



Thermal imaging camera viewed through Eclipse Mask



MSA Ultra Survivair 20/20 Drager Interspiro

### Models currently available

(contact us if you are interested in other models)

- AV3000 (Scott)
- G1 Facepiece (MSA)

### Replicates heavy smoke conditions

- Replicates an IDLH environment
- Three fogged out levels
- Can see silhouettes
- Can use with flashlight
- Can use for Thermal Imaging Camera training

### Durable and reusable

- Sticker affixes with static cling
- Use on mask exterior
- Easy to apply and remove with pull tabs
- Reusable – average of 20 times per mask
- Wipe with cloth if gets dirty
- Water resistant
- Safety border eliminates chance of leaving mask on for actual call

### Contact

Contact us for a free sample.

MADE IN USA



Patent Pending.

# TRAINING TIPS



# FIRE HERO

## LEARNING NETWORK

THE FREE ONLINE RESOURCE FOR TRAINING FIREFIGHTERS



FIREHEROLEARNINGNETWORK.COM

# INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM

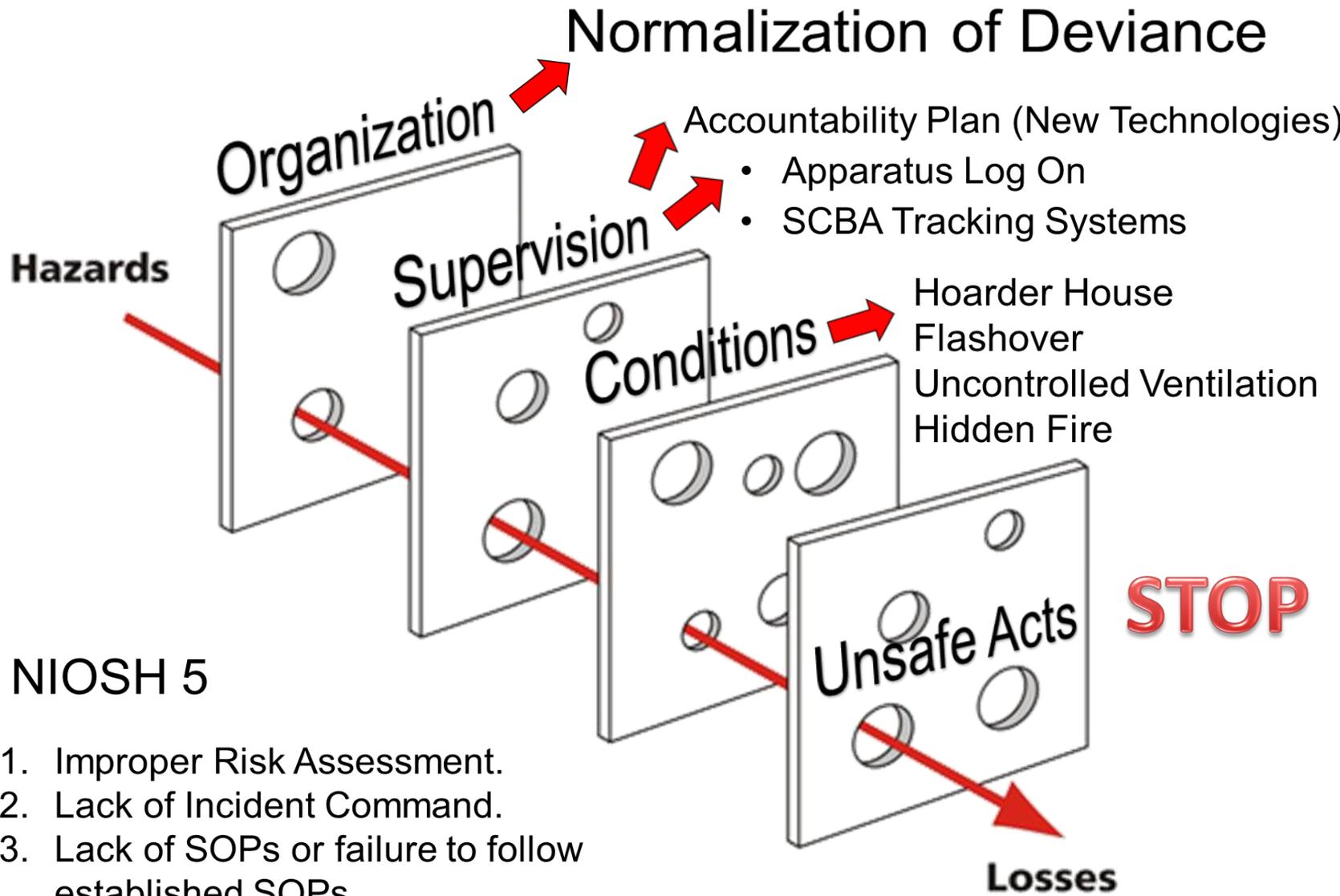
DRAWN BY FIRE™

BY PAUL COMBS

WHO NEEDS TO STUDY FIRE BEHAVIOR AND TACTICS?! I'VE WATCHED THE MOVIE BACKDRAFT, LIKE A HUNDRED TIMES... WE'VE GOT THIS!



COMBS  
©2015  
DRAWN BY FIRE  
FIRE ENGINEERING



**NIOSH 5**

1. Improper Risk Assessment.
2. Lack of Incident Command.
3. Lack of SOPs or failure to follow established SOPs.
4. Lack of Accountability.
5. Inadequate Communications.

**INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM**

**INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM**

**In each individual personal survey – Mayday victim were instructed that the surveys were confidential, department name or victim’s name would NOT be shared with anyone. It was requested that all information be factual and honest**

**A request was made to each fire department for permission, that each mayday-victim complete the *individual personal survey – mayday victim.***

**12,183**

**Male: 11,952    Female: 231**

## INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM

### **Psychology of a Mayday** **Firefighter involved in the Mayday**

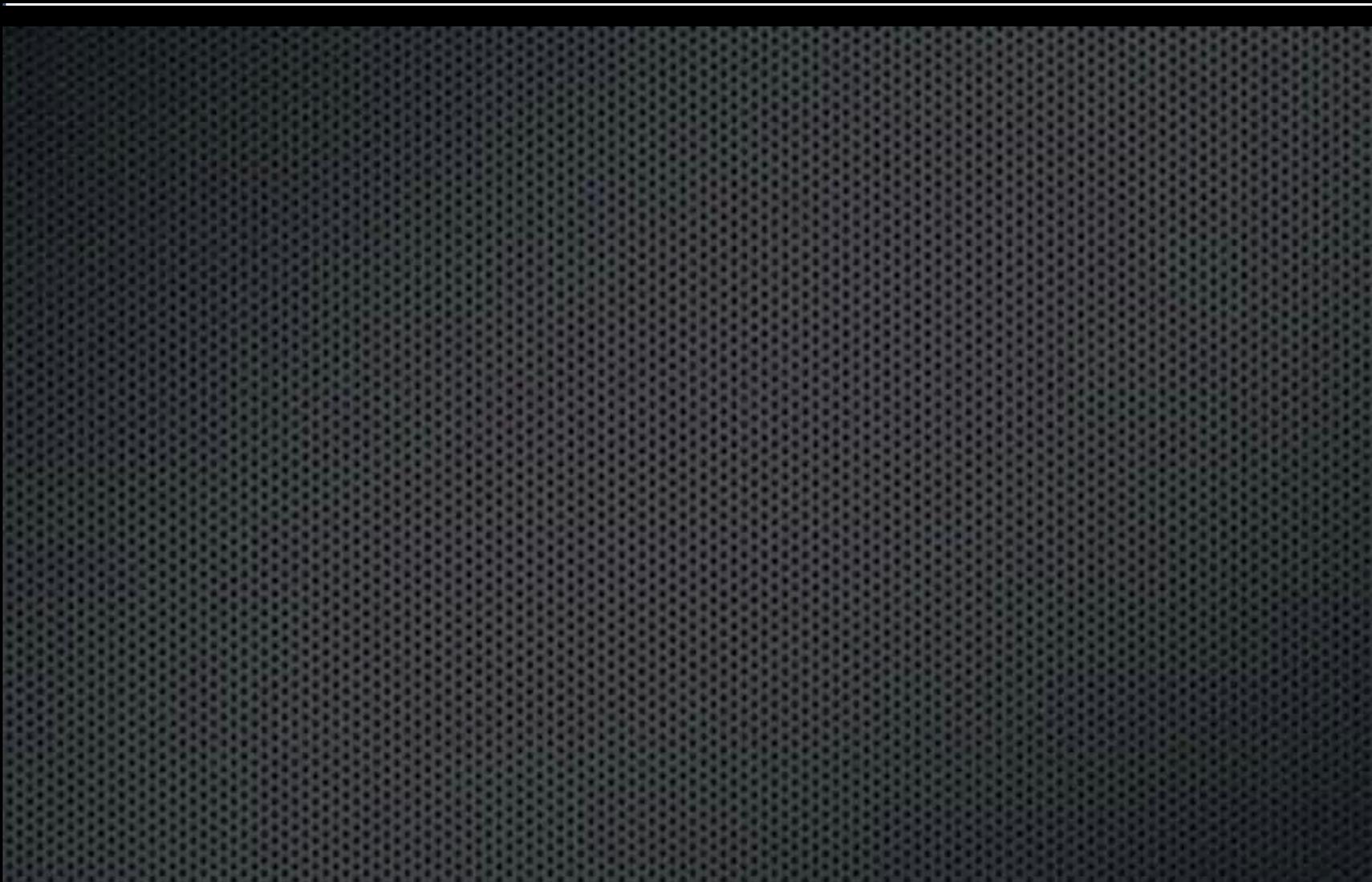
- The firefighter in distress will usually revert to what was learned and is “routine”.
- The firefighter’s sole focus will be to remove themselves from danger
- Don’t expect a firefighter to accomplish a manipulative skill learned in one hour, especially if the task was learned months ago
- Finally, firefighters in distress will over compensate – they will not be able to feel safe enough

## MAYDAY - Contributing Factors to Maydays

- **Situation Awareness** ..... **76%**
- **Disorientation** ..... **71%**
- **Decision Making** ..... **79%**
- **Human Error/Individual Actions** ..... **68%**
- **Communication** ..... **42%**
- **Not Enough Resources** .... **47%**
- **Structural issues** ..... **9%**
- **Unsafe Act Performed** ..... **76%**



# MAYDAY - Contributing Factors to Maydays



## MAYDAY - Contributing Factors to Maydays

# MAYDAY VICTIMS

### SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

*TASK FIXATION* occurs when a firefighter fixates their attention on A task they are performing.

Usually involving physical activities, eye hand coordination. (DIFFICULT)

Its near impossible to multitask, in a dange

Visual contact task, crew, other crews, when not possible we relied on audio contact, but then again not paying attention to the radio.

Best Practice: STOP periodically and survey your environment.



# MAYDAY VICTIMS

SA is influenced by, and can be improved by addressing the following:

1. **Mental state** – be well hydrated, nourished, rested, and possess a “stay-calm” attitude
2. **Training** – it never ends, a career-long commitment
3. **Experience** – expand recognition-primed decision-making (RPD) through incidents, vicarious learning, shadowing (professional visitations), and drills.
4. **Personal values** – improved through education (vs. training) and a personal commitment to reduce LODDs and injuries (caring attitude)

## MAYDAY - Contributing Factors to Maydays

# MAYDAY VICTIMS

*MISSION MYOPIA* is a fixation on the strategic objectives/mission,  
“Nothing is going to get in my way”

## **MAYDAY - Contributing Factors to Maydays**

# **MAYDAY VICTIMS**

### **AUDITORY EXCLUSIONS:**

The brain can only process so much sensory information (radio, fans, sirens, chain saws, etc.) this can overload the brain, then the brain begins to filter out parts of the input. The more radio traffic the FF processes the greater the chance that the brain “tones out.” Nothing gets done until the brain processes the information.

The brain is like a switchboard, hardwired fixating on “training trip wires” with the greatest threat to survival.

### **FLAWED PERCEPTIONS OF REALTY:**

FF under stress can say things they believe, but are simple untrue, and don't even know they are doing it. Many FF involved in “Project Mayday” have told us that their perception of reality was not accurate” after the fact.

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## MAYDAY - Contributing Factors to Maydays



# MAYDAY VICTIMS



**MAYDAY - Contributing Factors to Maydays**

**MAYDAY VICTIMS**

**# 2 Disorientation**

**66%**

**Disorientation is “ the loss of direction due to the lack of vision in structure fire.”**

Types of Hazards that create disorientation:

- Zero visibility conditions - - -      **PROLONGED ZERO VISIBILITY CONDITIONS**
- Flashover sequence / Backdraft sequence
- Collapse sequence
- Wind driven fire sequence
- Conversion steam sequence
- **SEPARATION OR ENTANGLEMENT** of houseline encountered

# MAYDAY VICTIMS

## **# 2 Disorientation**

Firefighter disorientation:

- Enclosed structure with smoke showing
  - Fast and aggressive interior attack
  - Deteriorating conditions
  - Handlin separation or entangled
  - After falling through roof/floor/basement
- 
- Mid-Rise/High Rise
  - Commercial structure
  - Hoarder structure
  - Large residential structures (> 7,200sqft)
  - Below grade

# MAYDAY VICTIMS

## # 3 Decision Making 64%

The major problems in interior decision making:

- SLOW to respond to changing/deteriorating conditions
- SLOW to process the information (putting the pieces together)
- Slow in implementing the solution
- Not listening to the radio reports of other crews
- Inexperience (simulations)

# MAYDAY VICTIMS

## **UNSAFE ACTS PERFORMED**

**65%**

- “have done it this way for years” (Training/SOP’s)
- “have to get the job done”
- “short cuts, to get the task done quicker”
- miss a step in the procedure
- the demands of the task out weight the resources
- **breakdown in communications**

**MAYDAY - Sleep Deprivation and Rest**

**Dr. A. McCourtee**

**Sleep Deprivation  
and Rest**

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## INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM

- Does the alarm sound for all units at your station?  
YES ... 16%
- Do you snore ? YES ... 54%
- Have you ever been tested for a sleep disorder?  
YES ... 12%
- Are you using a CPAT machine: YES 38%  
At home: 44%      While on duty: 20%

“The Journal for Clinical Sleep Medicine” 2016

“36% of firefighter screened had at least one sleep disorder, the most obstructive sleep apnea.”

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## MAYDAY - Contributing Factors to Maydays

**YOU**

*can schedule your departments next Mayday!*

It relates to our ability to THINK and DECIDE,  
Fatigue is a major factor in making poor decisions (Fact)  
When you are tired you miss a lot of important information  
(Fact)

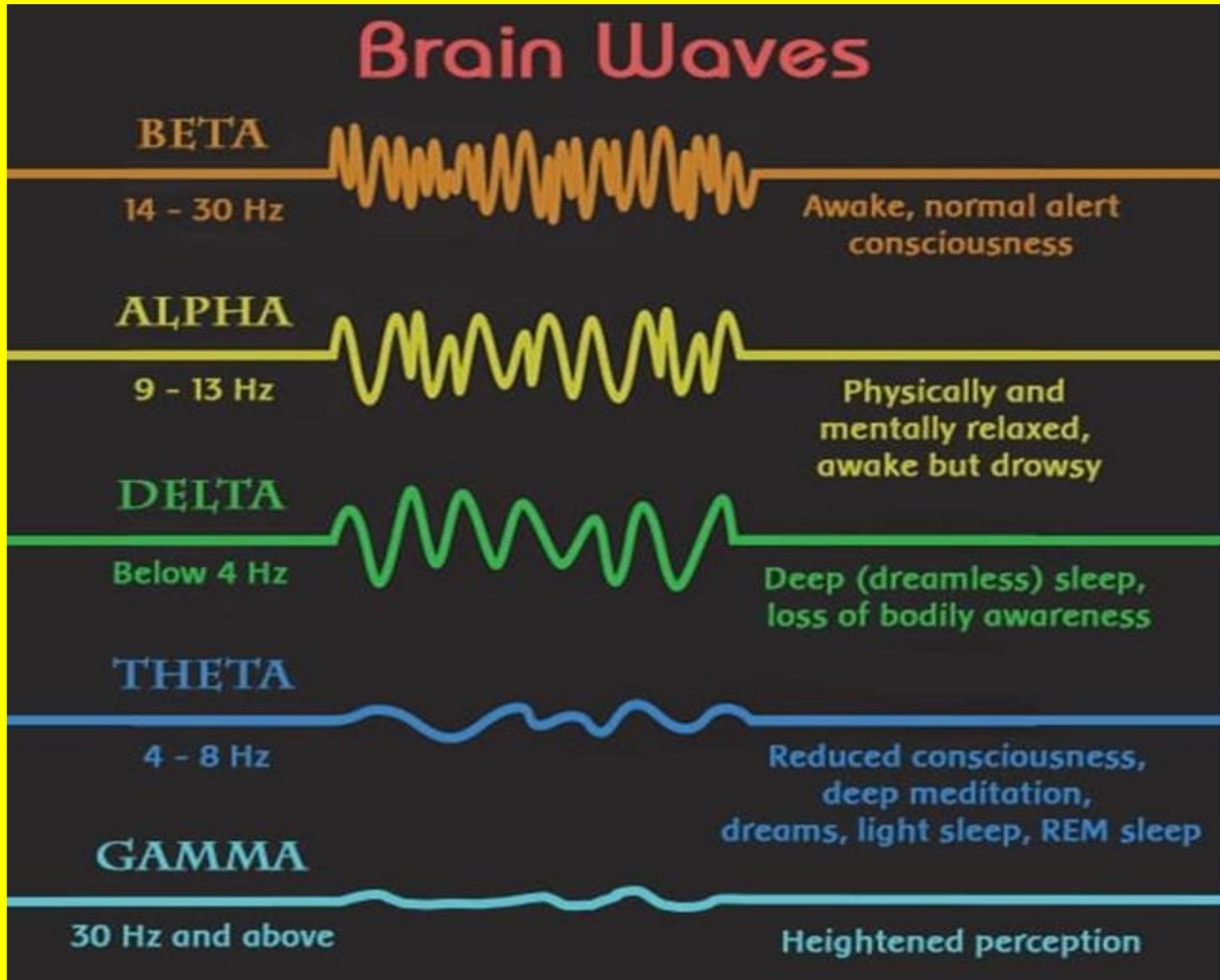
We wake up from a sound sleep(?) and place people  
in a life or death environment in five minutes ...  
it is a recipe for *disaster*.

It should come as to no surprise when most Maydays  
occur.

There is NO easy answer for this dilemma.

- Did you nap or sleep 3 hours before Mayday:  
YES: ... 26%
- Night Sleep, was your sleep interrupted once before your Mayday:  
YES: ... 44%
- two times or more before your Mayday:  
YES: ... 26%
- When returning from an after midnight run, did you go immediately to bed: YES ... 57%
- ..... Did you have anything to drink (that was not water) after your midnight run ... YES 46%
- ..... Did you have anything to eat, after your midnight run ... YES 34%

# INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM



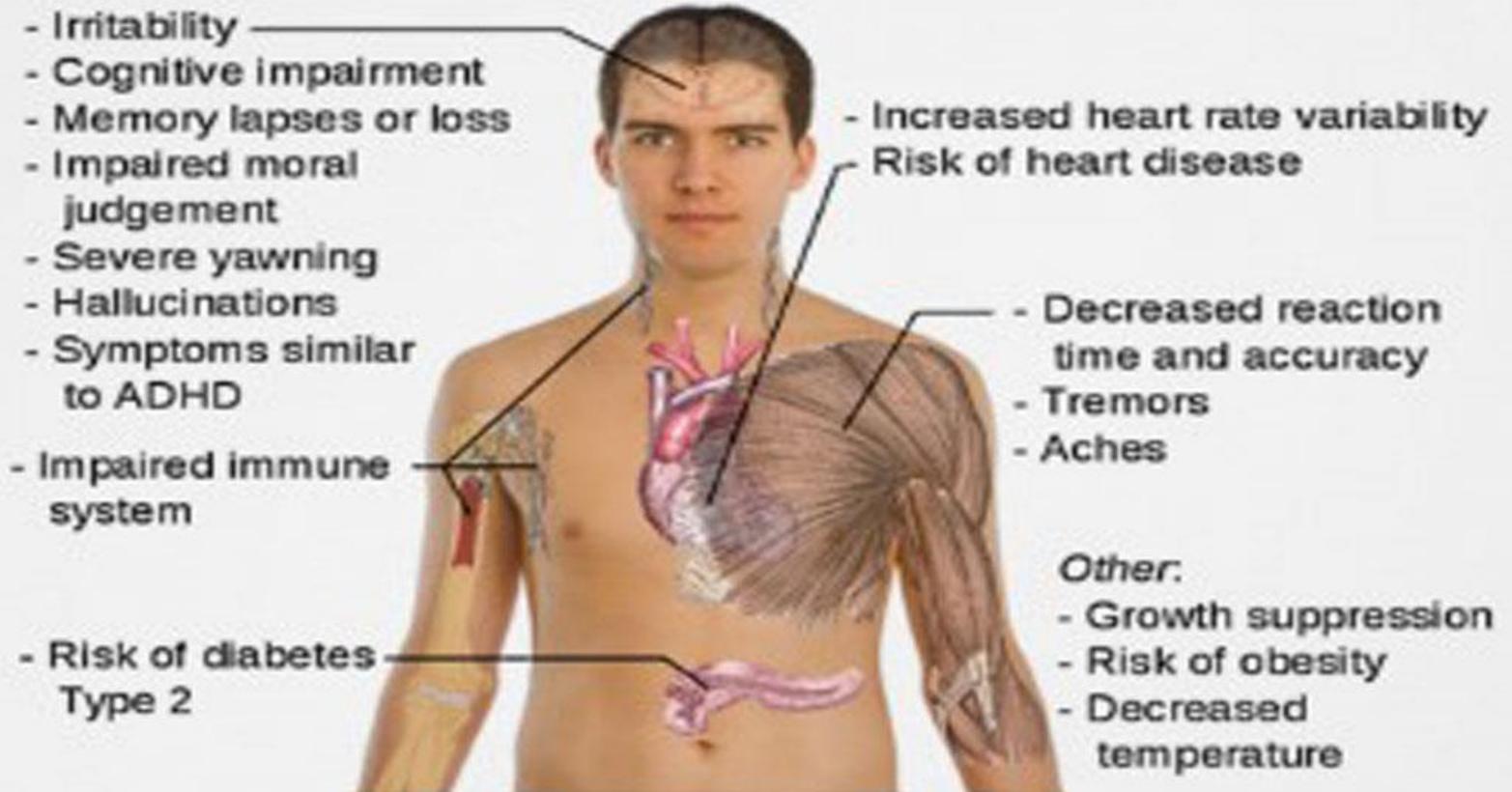
## **MAYDAY - Contributing Factors to Maydays**

1. First, most importantly, FD must recognize that adequate sleep is a wellness and performance issue equal to other priorities such as fitness, diet, and agility.
2. FD should evaluate current logistics for sleep and consider changes. (install fans, white noise) dorms to sleeping pods
3. Do an assessment of the current state of sleep fitness among members, honest data about sleep management, both on and off the job
4. Appropriate naps on duty ( 30minutes<) can make a positive difference in cognition and reflexes for someone who is exhausted

## **MAYDAY - Contributing Factors to Maydays**

5. Make resources available for those who are suffering from sleep disorder. Don not stigmatize the use of these resources.
6. Reconsider shift scheduling and overtime rules diminish the effects of sleep deprivation on emergency response
7. Look at new technology to help manage sleep and performance

# **FEELING THE EFFECTS OF SLEEP DEPRIVATION**



## **INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM**

**Sleep deprivation/restriction research is showing us that there is both a mental effect and physical effect.**

**The recent information about sleep duration influences firefighter's activity level, lower the body's ability to recovery from some activities by as much as 50%.**

**Some research shows during duty periods when sleep is disrupted, when a call occurs, also suggest that sleeping with "one ear open" may disrupt sleep even more if no call occurs, this leads to some of the same problems, performance impairment and adverse health outcomes.**

## **INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM**

**Firefighters being awake for prolonged periods, 12hrs + , then awoken during the night, impairs performance, in many cases impairment equal to a blood alcohol concentration 0.05. Repeated sleep interruption, creates chronic sleep lost, resulting in decreased ability to think clearly, handle complex mental tasks and solve problems.**

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# **Nutrition and Hydration**

**Dr. S. Jahnke**

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# **Nutrition and Hydration**

# INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM

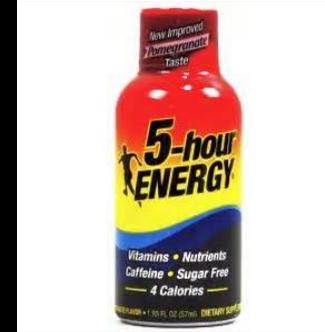
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## Nutrition: (Dr. Sara Jahnke)

- Did you have more than 12oz of caffeine based drink, 3hrs before your Mayday:  
YES ... (61%)
- Did you have a meal, 3hrs before your Mayday: 30%
- Did you have a snack w/sugar 3hrs before your Mayday: YES ... 36%  
YES ... a 7lb weight change + or – in the last six months:  
YES ... (36%)
- Do you presently smoke or chew tobacco ?  
YES ... (16%)

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**INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM**



**MAYDAY - Cardio / Physical Assessment**

Dr. M. Walker

Cardio / Physical  
Assessment

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**Cardiac Assessment: (Dr. Matt Walker)**

- do you have a family history of cardiac disease:  
YES: ... (36%)
- did you feel fatigued prior to your Mayday:  
YES: ... (43%)
- are you on blood pressure or blood thinner  
medicine:  
YES: ... (19%)
- are you a confirmed borderline diabetic:  
YES: ... (17%)
- are you on any medicine for stress:  
YES: ... (21%)
- are you on any sexual support medicine?  
YES ... (11%)

**Cardiac Assessment:**

- On any run after midnight (sleeping) did you have hand or leg cramps: YES ... 39%
- Has serious fatigue occurred after a run after midnight: YES ... 44%
- Have you had any swelling of your legs or ankles after going to bed, after a midnight run? YES ... 35%

**INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM**



**INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM**



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**ANY FF INVOLVED IN A  
SHOULD BE DONE WITHIN  
THREE HOURS OF THE  
MAYDAY**



# INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM

Properties of Gases Typically Found in Smoke				
Gas	Flashpoint	Self-Ignition Temp.	Flammable Range in Air	Notes
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	See notes	1128°F	12-74%	CO is considered a gas only—and, therefore, doesn't have flashpoint. The flammable range of CO is 12-74 only at the ignition temperature.
Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN)	0°F	1000°F	5-40%	HCN is produced when high temperatures break down nitrogen-containing products. HCN is quite flammable and is considered extremely toxic.
Benzene (C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>6</sub> )	12°F	928°F	1-8%	Most plastics release benzene while burning or pyrolyzing. Benzene is also a common product from the burning of fuel oils.
Acrolein (C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O)	-15°F	450°F	3-31%	Acrolein is a by-product from the incomplete combustion of wood, wood products, and other cellulosic materials. Poly-plastics can also render acrolein.

## INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM

### HYDROGEN CYANIDE IN FIRE OPERATIONS ACUTE CYANIDE POISONING

- Hydrogen cyanide is a cellular asphyxiant
  - **Inhaled HCN inhibits enzyme system responsible for cell respiration (oxygen utilization by cell)**
  - **Cessation of cell respiration makes normal cell function impossible, leading to cell mortality**
  
- There is no quick test that allows on-site confirmation of HCN toxicity
  
- There are some signs that can lead to assumption of HCN exposure and administration of countermeasures
  - **Disorientation and weakness/Drowsiness**
  - **Shortness of breath and chest tightness(Tachypnea, Dyspnea Tachycardia)**
  - **Headache**
  - **Bright red discoloration in skin**
  - **Smell of almonds on breath**
  - **Soot around mouth and nose/burns**
  - **Carbonaceous sputum**

# INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM

## HYDROGEN CYANIDE IN FIRE OPERATIONS ACUTE CYANIDE POISONING

- Recently there has been the first FDA approved cyanide treatment, Hydroxocobalamin, that can safely be administered at a fire scene
  - Detoxifies CN by binding it to form cyanocobalamin (B<sub>12</sub>)
  - Marketed as Cyanokit®
  - Used in France for 10 years
  
  - Previously, only supportive measures were available on site
    - 100% oxygen application
    - Sodium bicarbonate to counter metabolic acidosis
    - Cardiopulmonary support and anticonvulsants
  - Existing antidote involved nitrates that needed to be monitored under hospital care to avoid lethality when combined with CO

Taylor Kit

Lilly Kit

Pasadena Kit

**INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM**



## INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM



**Firefighting is dangerous work, that requires firefighters to maintain a HIGH level of physical and mental fitness in order to perform their necessary duties safely.**

- **FD follow NFPA 1582**



# INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL SURVEY – MAYDAY VICTIM



## **COMPONENT 2: EN ROUTE**

### ***Enroute to Incident involved in the MAYDAY***

- Did you wear your seatbelt? **NO ... 28% ?**  
(working fire dispatch...42%)
- Did a discussion take place amongst the crew about the incident prior to arrival? **YES ... 23%**
- Was specific orders given to crew members by the CO ?... **67%**
- Was there a pre-plan for your “mayday” (commercial building) ? **YES ... 8%**
- Did each member of the crew have a radio? **YES ... 73%**

**COMPONENT 2: On Scene**

- Did the CO stay outside, to serve as command?  
35%

**In My Defense,  
I was left unsupervised**

## **COMPONENT 2: On Scene**

- Did you enter standing-up? ... YES ... 87%
- How long after your entry, did you go to your knees? ... average 5/8 minutes ...
- How often do you leave your hoseline by more than 10 feet, in near zero visibility? ...  
Most of the time ... 78%
- Was there an effort to control the entry door in regards to air flow? ... YES ... 19%

**COMPONENT 2: The MAYDAY COMMUNICATION**

***L* ocation**

***U* nit number**

***N* ame**

***A* ssignment**

***R* esources needed**

**What's missing?**

**COMPONENT 2: The MAYDAY COMMUNICATION**

**WHO  
WHAT  
WHERE**

**We make the VICTIM  
work too hard**

## **COMPONENT 2: The MAYDAY Event**

- During your mayday, did you ...
  - ... make noise ... YES ... 29%
  - ... wave/turn off/on your flashlight ... YES ... 30%
  - ... moved to an outside wall/door ... YES ... 35%
  - ... don't remember what I did ... 24%
- How were you handle by your rescuers?
  - Good ... 33%      Roughly ... 52%
- Did rescuers have the proper equipment for your rescue? ... YES ... 55%
- If packaging was required, did they proper package you, before exiting? ... YES ... 31%
- Did you have on all your PPC on? ... YES ... 83%  
if NO: hood ... 61%    gloves ...19%

**COMPONENT 2: The MAYDAY Event**

**Did you have confidence in your...**

- Company Officer ..... 83%**
- Incident Commander ..... 82%**
- RIT ..... 16%**

## COMPONENT 2: The MAYDAY Event **ALERT**

- Be **alert**, when multi crews enter through one entry point
- Crews should be **alert** when air is being drawn in rapidly in ZVC and the heat is banking down
- Interior crews can hear the fire burning above them, but can't see it
- Crews feel "uncomfortable" with the situation they are in
- Crews "low air alarm" is going off, but they are still trying to find the seat of the fire
- Interior crews flow water for several minutes but make no progress
- Crews are unable to communicate with command

## **MAYDAY VICTIM – PERSONAL ACTIONS**

- **Collect your thoughts and control your breathing**
- **Call the MAYDAY**
- **Advise the IC of your intentions**
- **Make noise without wasting air**
- **It's difficult to hear and talk (PASS alarm / Low air alarm)**
- **Monitor distance into the structure**
- **Always be accountable to someone**

**AIR + TIME = SURVIVAL**

**MANY MAYDAYS (36%) OCCUR BEFORE  
A FORMAL RIT TO IS ESTABLISHED**

## COMPONENT 2: The MAYDAY Event

# Why do we wait?



## Considerations / Recommendation

**31%**  
**of Mayday**  
**situations,**  
**were**  
**NOT**  
**reported as Maydays**

**COMPONENT 2: The MAYDAY Event**

# Why do we wait?

**Underestimation of  
conditions**

**Fear**

**Denial**

**Intimidation**

**Disorientation**



**COMPONENT 2: The MAYDAY Event**

**multitasking and  
short term memory  
overload**

**COMPONENT 2: The MAYDAY Event**

**Don't think  
you are the  
"Exception"  
to the Rule**

## **YOUR COMMENTS**

- **Deteriorating conditions;**
  - **came faster than expected**
  - **couldn't react fast enough**
  - **crew passing on situation awareness was slow or never came to all crew members**
  - **moved faster than we should have**
  - **got off hose line, farther than I should have**
  - **spacing off the hose line was too far**
  - **when we fell into the basement, someone should have passed us a line**
  - **TIC didn't work as expected on the first floor with fire in the basement**
  - **There should have been ladders at a third floor window for escape, instead of jumping**

## Considerations / Recommendation

**YOU HAVE CALLED A  
MAYDAY ...**

**you have done everything  
you have been trained to do.**

**NOW**

**develop a plan, as what are  
you going to do if you run**

**OUT OF AIR**

**don't want it will be to late**

**PRECEPTION**

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**PREDICTABLE  
Is  
PREVENTABLE**

**Gordon Graham**

**WHAT CAN FIREFIGHTERS DO TO REDUCE  
MAYDAYS**

- **SIZE-UP (all the time and everywhere)**
- **MENTAL MAPPING**
  - Where are YOU
  - How did I get HERE
  - How do I get OUT
- **CREW CONTINUITY**
- **CREW COORDINATION**

**WHAT CAN FIREFIGHTERS DO TO REDUCE  
MAYDAYS**

- **EVACUATION**
  - Quick
  - Orderly
- **Worsening Condition / Lack of Visibility**
  - Its going to take longer to **GET OUT** than getting in

**PREDICTABLE ACTIONS = MANAGEABLE RESCUE**

- **Suppress PANIC**
  - breathe
  - organize
  - act (plan)

Your Comments

PAUL COMBS  
ARTISTIC SERVICES  
FIRE ENGINEERING ©2011



YOU DO KNOW  
THE R IN R.I.T.  
STANDS FOR  
RAPID, RIGHT?

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*Rescue Team, RIC, Mayday Officer*  
*Survey*

**CAPT. J.C. FORD**  
**Charlotte County FD**  
**RIT Team Leader of LODD**

“Personally, perhaps the most important issue brought to light through this incident is the realization that my expectations and assumptions concerning the deployment of a RIT team were both inaccurate and unrealistic. While my previous assumptions were totally born out of a commonly held perspective from training, they were nonetheless ineffective and tragic.”

**Rescue Team, RIC, Mayday Officer  
Survey**



**Rescue Team Officer, RIC  
Officer,  
Mayday Officer  
Personal Survey**

**7,839**

**Rescue Team, RIC, Mayday Officer**  
**Survey**

**Psychology of a Mayday**

**Firefighter involved in the Mayday**

- The firefighter in distress will usually revert to what was learned and is “routine”.
- The firefighter’s sole focus will be to remove themselves from danger
- Don’t expect a firefighter to accomplish a manipulative skill learned in one hour, especially if the task was learned months ago
- Finally, firefighters in distress will over compensate – they will not be able to feel safe enough

## *Rescue Team, RIC, Mayday Officer Survey*

**The initial RIC/RIT shall be fast moving, lightly equipped recon team, it's objective is to locate the downed firefighter(s) and perform the rescue effort**

**A RIC/RIT shall consist of a minimum of three (3) personnel inclusive of a supervisor**

**The position of RIC/RIT Group Supervisor should be established anytime a RIC/RIT is deployed**

**Rescue Team, RIC, Mayday Officer  
Survey**

**The essence of  
training is to allow  
*error without  
consequence***

## Rescue Team, RIC, Mayday Officer Survey

### OPERATIONAL MODES

***Rapid Extrication:*** The immediate removal of a downed firefighter using any combination of drags, carries, lifts or assist. The firefighter must be close to an exit and free of entrapment

***Extended Operation:*** When a downed firefighter is trapped or deep inside a structure. Initial actions should stabilize the immediate surroundings and air supply of a downed firefighter while the rescue can be completed.

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# Rescue Team, RIC, Mayday Officer Survey



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1407

NFPA 1407  
Standard for  
Training  
Fire Service  
Rapid Intervention  
Crews  
2015 Edition



[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

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*Rescue Team, RIC, Mayday Officer*  
*Survey*

**RIT**  
**Rapid Incident Team**



**Rescue Incident  
Team**

89%

of successful rescues  
come  
from within the  
structure

IRIC, RIC, RIT Operations

**1 out of 12  
IRIC/RIC/RIT  
has a  
MAYDAY**

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**Component 2: Rescue Team, RIT, Mayday Officer**

***RIC  
used 27%  
more AIR than  
normal crews***

IRIC, RIC, RIT Operations

***2 in / 2 out***

***Our research, based on  
Victims, ICs, IRIC/RIC  
DOES NOT WORK ...***

***It has not produced any  
significant results ...***

- to few people
- not properly dressed
- NO RIC bag/or proper rescue equipment
- mentally unprepared
- NO plan
- NO back-up plan or team

## IRIC, RIC, RIT Operations

### **PROACTIVE RIT TASKS**

- Perform RIT Size-Up
- Monitor fireground, structure, companies and communication
- Preparing the fireground
  - Provide secondary egress/access location
  - Remove any hazards and/or obstacles

### **MONITORING THE FIREGROUND:**

- Note building construction, size, number of floors, basement, type roof and fire behavior effect on construction.
- Crew location and assignment
- **CONDITION OF CREWS** as they **EXIT** the structure
- Things getting better or worst
- **TIME** / monitor radio channel(s)

# IRIC, RIC, RIT Operations



**ID the RIC**

**E-6 RIC ... E-11 RIC**

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## **Component 2: Rescue Team, RIC, Mayday Officer**

- Packaging should not be time consuming process. In most cases one firefighter should do the packaging. Multiple firefighters in ZVC is problematic. The AIR firefighter should have the most immediate contact with the victim.
- There are two factors which affect compromised victims in regards to removal. The enemy of a victim is “TIME” and the limited viable removal because of conditions/egress. If there are serious injuries, its packaging, not treatment. Remove quickly so they can receive treatment
- Small staffed to work a mayday

## Component 2: Rescue Team, RIC, Mayday Officer

### REMEMBER THE BASICS:

- HAVE A PLAN ... fragmented RIC/RIT/IRIC don't work
- Monitor interior conditions
- Monitor air supply
- DON'T BECOME PART OF THE PROBLEM

### YOU FIND THE FIREFIGHTER (Mayday Victim)

- Assess the victim, room conditions, RIT members
- Secure the FF air supply, turn off PASS unit
- Exercise rescue plan
- Determine best removal techniques
- Do FF know how to remove FF'ers PPC/PPE

### RIT COMMUNICATION BENCHMARKS:

- RIT Enter
- Location changes, first floor, second floor  
FF located / Air Supply secured / EXITING w/victim

**Component 2: Rescue Team, RIC, Mayday Officer**

**When the rescue is being done by the victims crew or another interior crew, they don't have a Rescue Plan, because of the timing of locating the victim.**

**The Company Officer needs to monitor their crews air during this operation. They have already been inside working and have used air. Don't let the crew be the next MAYDAY.**

**Component 2: Rescue Team, RIT, Mayday Officer**

**RIT Bag Usage:**

- Air ..... 3,781
  - low air ..... 2,746
  - out of air ..... 1,035
- Facepiece replacement..... 664 (236)
- Regular replacement ..... 117
- Wire Cutters ..... 2,549
- Bolt Cutters ..... 478
  
- Stoke Basket/Mega Mover, etc ..... 2,563
- Folding ladder ..... 2,41

## Component 2: Rescue Team, RIT, Mayday Officer



**Wet down the victims head, then have a rescuer Fully geared up, turning their hood backwards So they cannot see. Have then find the face piece in the RIT bag and place it on the victim, then the regulator an go on air. TIME**

## **Component 2: Rescue Team, RIC, Mayday Officer**

- **Report findings**
- **Ensure firefighter has air**
- **NO freelancing**
- **Everyone should monitor changing fireground conditions**



**Component 2: Rescue Team, RIC, Mayday Officer**

**DID YOUR RIC, RESCUE HAVE A  
“MAYDAY”**

**YES ..... 632 (5,781)**

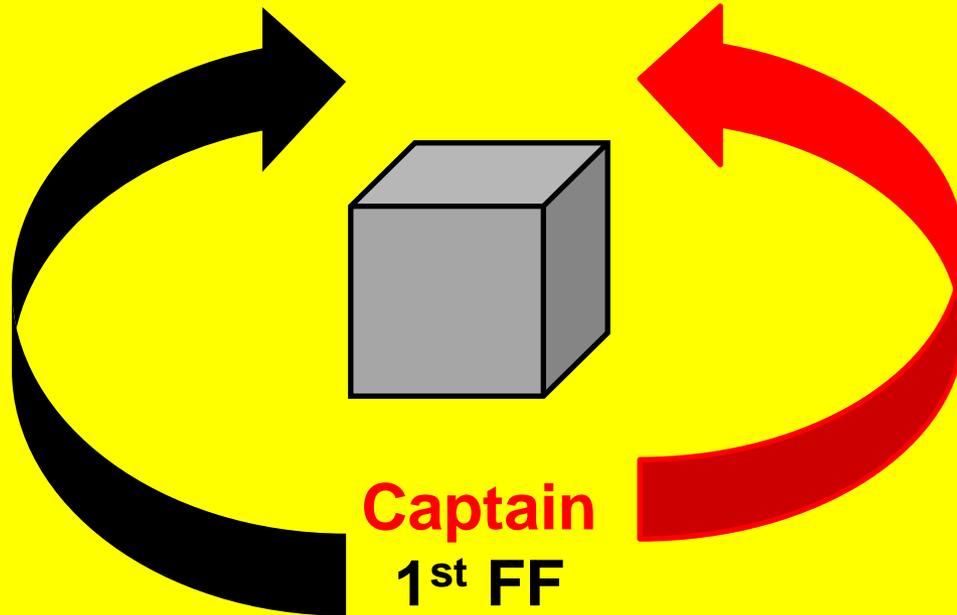
**WHY ?**

- Had NO real plan before entering.
- Rush into things without thinking them out.
- Did not follow original hose line, took short cut.
- Used way to much air!
- Too much radio traffic and everybody making suggestions
- (CO) did not process incoming information well
- Took too long to package victim.
- Crew became physical exhausted quick.

**Did your RIT/Rescue have any injuries? YES ... 9%**



**COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATION**



**Captain**

**1<sup>st</sup> FF**

**2<sup>nd</sup> FF**

**Checks out RIT bag**

**3<sup>rd</sup> FF & 4<sup>th</sup> FF**

**Sets tarp, retrieves stokes, saw, folding ladder, etc.**

# RECOMMENDATIONS

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## RIT / RIT Officers:

- RIT officers conducts a 360 of the structure (if possible) and develop a plan
- Check-out RIT bag and other equipment
- Maintain air / time / conditions and situational awareness
- **HAVE A RESCUE PLAN**
- Make sure each member of the RIT knows the plan and their piece of the plan.
- **BE PREPARED** for anything
- Be realistic with the problem and the rescue

## COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATION

- Locating a firefighter in distress:
  - stop, listen, at times cease all activities
  - look for discarded tools and equipment, hose
  - check ceiling for beams of light
  - use a TIC

***Rapid Rescues are  
NOT rapid ....***

***slow down, do it RIGHT the first time, be aware of your environment, don't be surprised by anything. Be calm and reassuring, take the time to think through anything that you have never done before or hadn't been trained to do. There is a first time for everything.***

## COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATION

- Equipment for a IRIC/RIT/FAST can be divided into two categories:
  - personal gear carried by a RIT member
  - team resources staged and ready
- Have a tarp, pre-marked with equipment location, everything that may be required for a RIT rescue (it will be noted what's needed, missing or being used for the next RIT).



## COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATION

- Listen to radio communication as what may be required for rescue, more air cylinders, special equipment.
- Don't take short cuts and become another mayday
- RIT officer should know the strength and weakness of crew members, making sure each person has the right assignment.



**FLYNN INCIDENT**



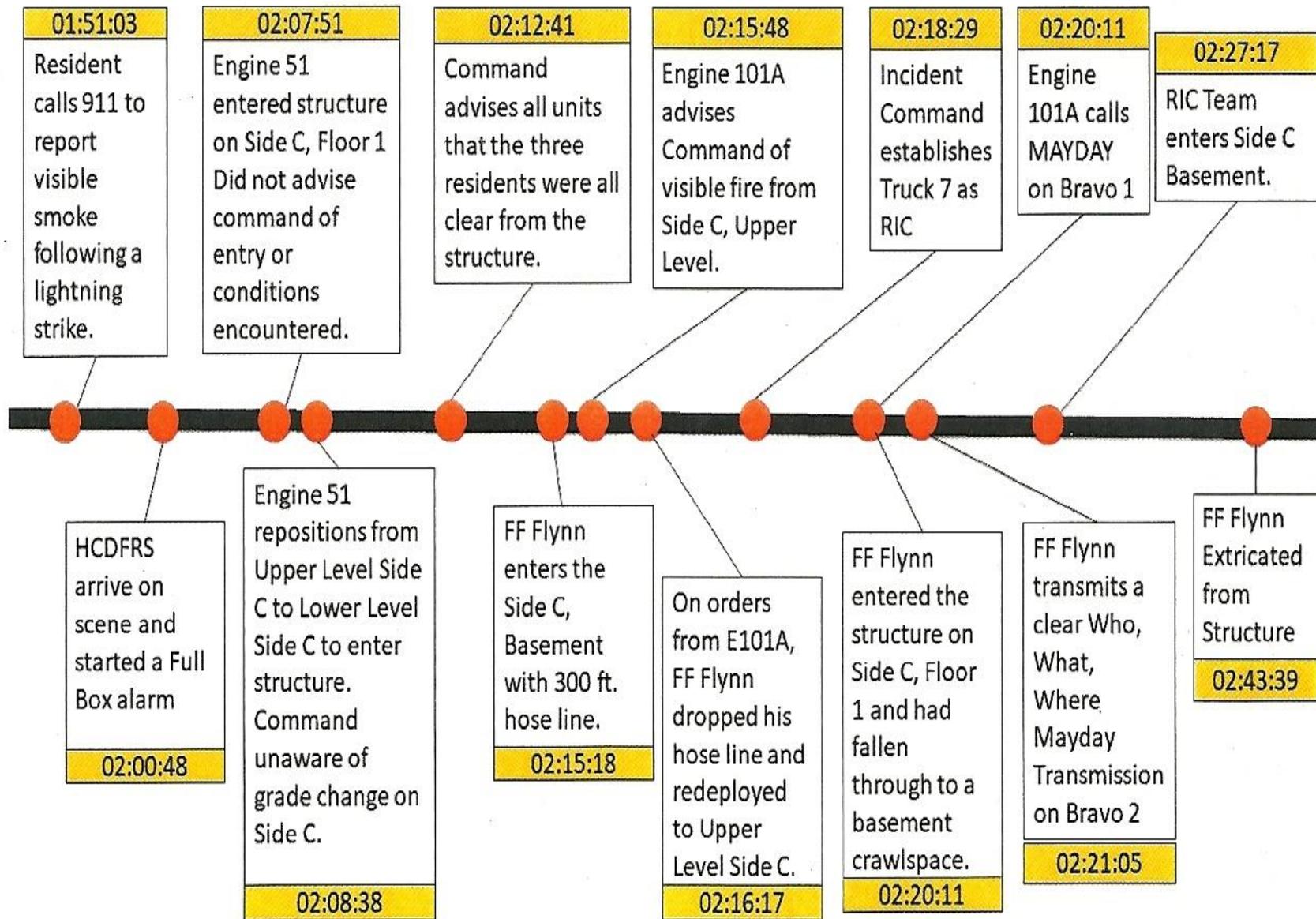
## **FLYNN INCIDENT**

**Larger residential structures, need to be treated as commercial structures.**

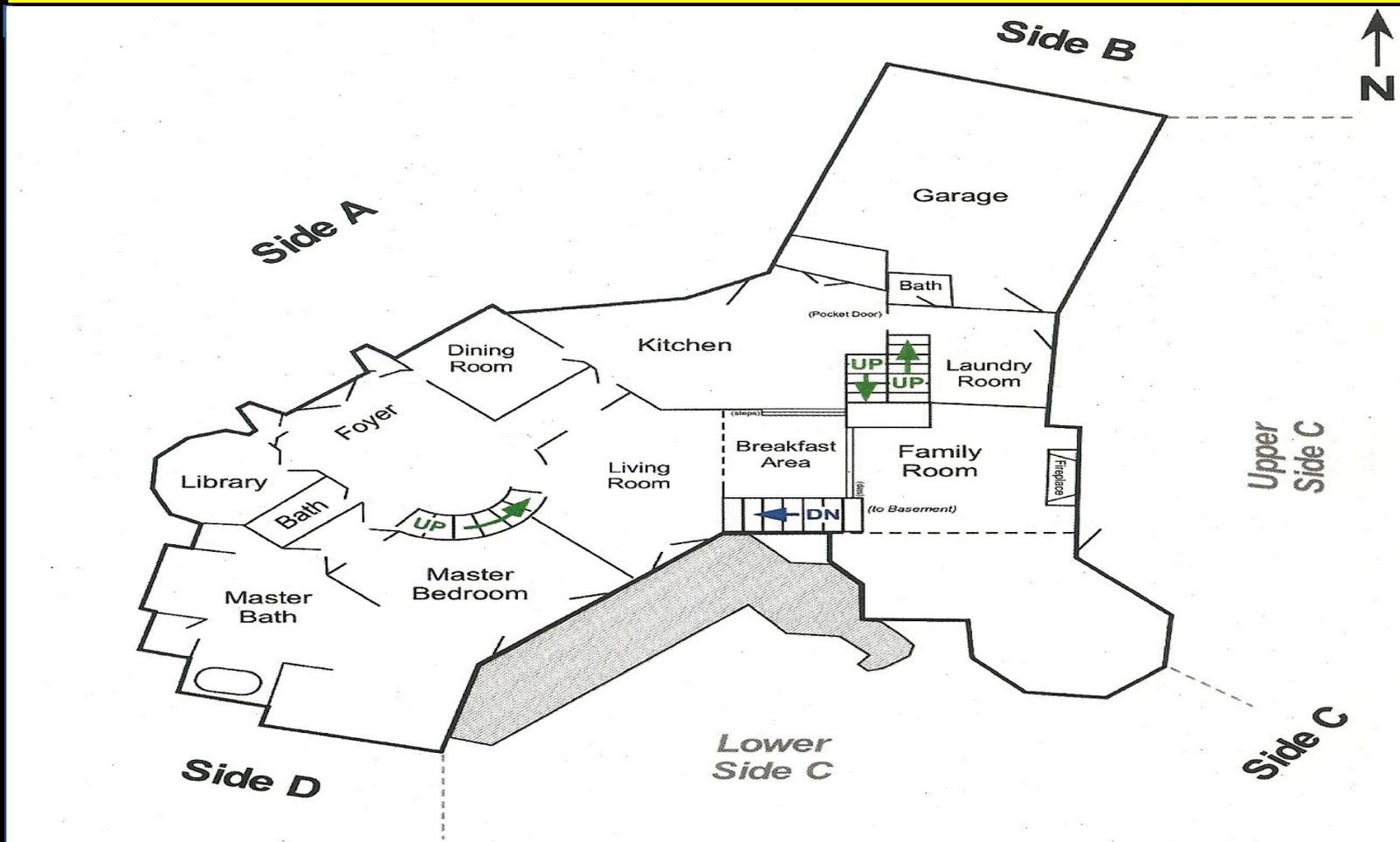
**Because of size, multi-levels, and construction, Along with the fact that a 250ft attack line may not reach where you need to go, Search time will be more difficult and take longer than normal, Especially if the report of a fire is delayed or this fires water supply is from tankers/water tenders.**

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# **FLYNN INCIDENT**

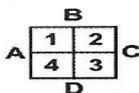


# FLYNN INCIDENT



## Floor 1

rev 4/11/19



Side/Quadrant Key

(drawing not to scale)

**FLYNN INCIDENT**

**PHOTOS / SITE DIAGRAMS / MAPS**



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**FLYNN INCIDENT**



# CARR INCIDENT

At 1528 hours, forty minutes from time of dispatch and thirty-eight minutes into the firefight the first floor gave way three to four steps in from the threshold, E23C fell through the floor and E23 FF2 immediately attempted to rescue E23C. E23 FF2 planned on falling to his stomach in order to see where the E23C was and attempt a rescue. This is when E23 FF2 falls through the floor from the first floor into the basement and both the Captain (E23C) and the E23 FF2 began to fight for their lives. E23 FF1 was still present at the threshold on Div. 1 and notified the Div.1 Supervisor (PR 2) and immediately put a hose line inside the hole to attempt to protect the E23C and FF2 from the fire in the involved basement. The Division 1 Supervisor immediately called a "MAYDAY", "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday, Firefighter...., through the floor on the first floor, RIC to the first floor." "Carr IC" immediately acknowledged the "Mayday," "All units on the Carr Incident hold all traffic, Emergency Traffic, Emergency Traffic, company with the Emergency Traffic go ahead with your emergency." Div. 1 says, "Firefighter through the floor, Firefighter.... Captain...., through the floor on the first floor interior, we need RIC and Medical to the front door." The Rapid Intervention Company (RIC) was already fully suited up with masks on and immediately moved in the direction of the front door and quickly realized the best place for them to enter would be the door on the basement level at the A/D corner in order to intersect with the downed Captain and downed Firefighter.

At 1529 based on the rapid deployment of the RIC Team and T21 members working in the vicinity, E23 FF2 was immediately found a few feet inside the 6-foot access door on the D-side, at the A/D corner of the structure. The downed firefighter (E23 FF2) was self-extricating and was crawling towards his egress when RIC and a member from T21 put hands on him and assisted him with exiting the structure; they handed E23 FF2 to the backup team and rescue ambulance for assessment and treatment. The members attempting rescue from the first floor above could still see E23C helmet (passport) through the smoke, but couldn't reach him. T32C placed a portable scene light near the door threshold and continued to flow a hose line in the hole while E29C (laying on his stomach) with a firefighter (E29 FF) holding his legs. Both Captains tried to reach E23C with their hands and various tools, while they waited on an attic ladder to put in the hole.



# CARR INCIDENT

At approximately 1529 hours, "Carr IC" requests a 4<sup>th</sup> alarm. Div. Sub-level 1 (EMS 2) reports, "Priority traffic, we have the Firefighter out, he's on the A/D corner, we need a BLS unit and Medical." "Carr IC responds, "Medical from IC, can you handle the medical incident with the firefighter down?" Medical responds, "IC from Medical we have RA11 with the firefighter down." Right around this time, E29C is informed that they have the firefighter out of the basement. E29C thinks to himself and says, "No they don't, because I'm still looking at a helmet."

The initial thought was that only one firefighter had fallen through, but at approximately 1530 hours it was reconciled and communicated that there was a Captain that had fallen through also. "Carr IC" stated, "all units on the Carr incident we still have one firefighter trapped in Sub-level 1, the rescue is in process." The initial RIC re-deployed to look for the other member that had fallen through. The RIC Team entered in the configuration with the Captain being first in with the Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC), the two Firefighters and then the Engineer. There was heavy smoke and minimal visibility as the RIC Team crawled into the structure. A few feet inside the door the Captain was able to make out the layout of the basement using the TIC and move in the direction of where they thought the downed Captain might be. Approximately 20' to 25' inside the basement the RIC Captain was able to see the silhouette of the downed Captain (E23C) standing up and attempting to self-rescue while communicating with members above him on the first floor. Almost immediately, the RIC Captain was able to reach out and grab the downed Captains arm, E23C stated, "Get me out of here!" T29C then notified the members of the RIC Team that they had the downed Captain and to reverse out and assist the Captain with exiting the basement area.

At approximately 1531 hours (3 ½ minutes after falling in) E23C was extracted from the A/D corner for assessment, treatment and transportation. The radio report to the "Carr IC" that confirmed everyone that had fallen through was out of the building came at approximately 1533 hours. The TIC played a vital role and assisted the RIC Captain with finding the member and assisting him with exiting on the D-side of the structure through the door where the Rapid Intervention Companies staged and deployed from.



**Rescue Team, RIC, Mayday Officer  
Survey**

**2019 – 3,267**

**Lapse Times (Average)**

RIT/RIC Ready State .....	2:50min
MAYDAY to RIT/RIC Entry .....	3:10 - 3:18 - 3:27
RIT/RIC Contacted Down Firefighters .....	5:52 - 6:17 – 6:51
RIT/RIC Team Removal Time .....	16:44 - 19:07 - 23:39

**TOTAL RESCUE TIME: ..... 25:36 – 28:32 – 36:48**  
**3,200sq.f.t**

**2 Firefighter (255/286lbs) entering basement, with stairway collapse, fire in the basement, (1) unconscious (1,100psi)(2) lower back injury (950psi) debris on firefighter, ZVC, stairway gone.**

**RIT/RIC 408**

**49 RIT/RIC - 12% had their own MAYDAY**

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**“The Life  
YOU save  
could be  
your OWN**

**IF YOU WISH TO SUBMIT A “MAYDAY”**

[Click Here](#)

**If you wish to view the 2015 Annual “Project Mayday” General Report,  
click on either CAREER or VOLUNTEER REPORT.**

[http://projectmayday.net./](http://projectmayday.net/)

**CAREER**

**VOLUNTEER**

**“Saving Lives, Through Research and Learning”**

**“PROJECT MAYDAY”**

***CERT***

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# **PROJECT MAYDAY**

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