

Firefighter Down Procedures



Introduction

- Firefighter Down notification shall immediately be given by any personnel who become aware of any member seriously injured, trapped, lost, or in need of immediate life-saving actions.

Emergency Traffic

- First action is to request “**EMERGENCY TRAFFIC**” “**EMERGENCY TRAFFIC**” via the portable radio.
- This request will always be in clear text (No slang, abbreviations or short-cuts) and it will be followed by radio silence to allow for the next message.
- After the frequency has been secured state: “**Firefighter Down**”, “**Firefighter Missing**” or appropriate **Critical Scene Information** which will include any or all of the following information.

Critical Scene Information

- Identification of the Company/Firefighter involved (i.e.; E11 or FF Smith).
- The Problem (Lost, Out Of Air, Pinned, Tangled)
- An accurate last known location
- The Number Of Personnel involved.

Critical Scene Information

(con't)

- Additional information and size up of the situation including any special tools or equipment needed to mitigate the situation.
- Notification of any specific hazards to personnel attempting to assist.

Emergency Traffic Not Acknowledged

- If your request to the IC for Emergency Traffic is not acknowledged, the member making the request shall notify Fire Dispatch who will relay the information to the IC.

Support Actions For Firefighter Down Notifications

- The Incident Commander shall begin appropriate rescue actions and notify Fire Dispatch of the situation.
- Fire Dispatch shall immediately clear the tactical frequency of all but emergency traffic, and shall broadcast a clear text message of “**Firefighter Down**” to all members operating at the incident.

Support Actions For Firefighter Down Notifications (con't)

- Fire Dispatch will assign a separate frequency for RIC operations when possible.
- In most cases RIC operations will be conducted on Fire Channel _ ??????
- The IC will closely monitor the assigned channel.

Support Actions For Firefighter Down Notifications (con't)

The member or company that identified the Firefighter Down situation shall take whatever immediate actions are necessary to safely begin search and rescue operations until additional resources are available or a RIC arrives. **All companies that are performing critical operations (firefighting, exposure protection, or other life-safety and assigned roles) shall continue those efforts until reassigned by the Incident Commander.**

Support Actions For Firefighter Down Notifications (con't)

- Upon notification of a **Firefighter Down** Emergency Operations Section Chief, Branch Directors, Division or Group Supervisors, Company Officers, and other on-scene supervisors shall immediately conduct a roll call/PAR of all personnel under their command.

Support Actions For Firefighter Down Notifications (con't)

- Any personnel who are missing shall be reported to the Incident Commander through the normal command structure. All supervisors shall make an assessment of their current situation including personnel, equipment and other resources, then notify Command of their ability to augment any rescue operations.

Firefighter Responsibilities

- Firefighters who find themselves lost, trapped, injured, or in any other critical situation must immediately inform their partner or supervisor that they are in distress. If they have a radio, they shall inform the Incident Commander of their emergency situation. When possible, include a description of the immediate area, sounds of nearby activity and any other information that may be useful in directing the RIC.

Rescue Accomplished



- The Incident Commander shall have the responsibility to broadcast the “all clear” when the operations directed towards the **Firefighter Down** emergency have concluded. This will ensure that all members on the incident will be aware that the **Firefighter Down** operations have concluded.

Actions That Will Increase Your Survivability And Maybe Save Your Ass

- Do Not Panic or You **WILL** Die !
- Initiate “Emergency Traffic” ASAP.
- Relay **C.A.N.** - Conditions, Actions, Needs.
- Activate Your Personal Alert Device (PAD)
- Maintain Crew Continuity (Stay Together)
- Continue to search for a way out or a solution to your problem. Self-Rescue!

Survivability And Maybe Save Your Ass

- Find A Refuge Area
- Protect Your Mask at all Costs
- Conserve you air supply (Remain Calm).

*Think Safety And Train Like Your Life
Depends on it... Because it Does!*

- Be Confident in Your Training, Your Equipment and Your Crew (If Your Not Train Until You Are!)
- Be Pro-Active in Your Own Survival
- Think Safe, Act Safe and Be Safe.

