

<b>AMARILLO FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES</b>	<b>LOST OR TRAPPED FIRE FIGHTERS</b>
<b>304.06a</b>	<b>03/05</b>
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**PURPOSE:**

This guideline identifies operational approaches for search and rescue for lost, trapped, or injured firefighters. An immediate and well-organized search and rescue response will be implemented to rescue endangered firefighters.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS:**

1. A Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) will be established based on the AFD 2-in/2-out Guideline for Structural Firefighting (SOG 403.14) and Rapid Intervention Team (SOG 303.06).
2. Upon recognition that a firefighter(s) is missing, lost, trapped, or injured, Command will immediately upgrade the incident to a greater alarm(s).
3. A Safety Sector will be established, and the Department Safety Officer will be requested to respond to the scene.
4. Depending on the needs of the incident, Command should consider activation of medical units and special response teams, i.e. heavy rescue, the Hazardous Materials Team.
5. Lost or trapped firefighters will utilize “Mayday, Mayday” to announce an emergency. Sector Officers will use “Mayday” if they have personnel that are missing or have been involved in a building collapse.

**LOST OR INJURED FIREFIGHTER(S):**

The following guidelines pertain to firefighters that are lost or are injured in a hazardous environment and are unable to self-rescue.

1. Firefighters must recognize that being lost or disoriented is an emergency and must take immediate actions to extricate themselves from the danger before becoming incapacitated:
  - a. Inform Command of the emergency situation using “Mayday, Mayday.”
    - i. Use *E.S.C.A.P.E.* acronym to explain situation to Command (**E**ngine/name, **S**ituation, **C**onditions, **A**ir supply remaining, **P**osition, **E**scape plan)
    - ii. Relate information to Command that will assist in determining location (i.e. floor number, sounds of nearby activity, entry point, assignment)
  - b. Activate the alarm on the P.A.S.S
  - c. Make efforts to contact RIT by making noise and using flashlight as signals
  - d. Conserve air supply and continue to attempt self-rescue
2. Command Responsibilities:
  - a. Deploy a RIT to begin rescue operations (see SOG 303.06)

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- b. Initiate next greater alarm and establish Level II staging.
- c. Adjust the incident management plan to a high priority rescue: implementing appropriate sectors, establishing protection zones, implementing medical/triage, providing additional ventilation, etc.
- d. Establish a new RIT to back up crews involved in the rescue operation. Two firefighters for each rescuer should be on standby outside the entry point(s).
- e. Coordinate with the Accountability Officer and initiate PARs to determine which firefighter(s) is missing.
- f. Move personnel that are *not* directly involved in rescue operations to a different fireground radio channel. This will allow the person involved in the Mayday event to have radio priority and keep that channel clear of excess traffic.
- g. Open doors/windows of structure to provide escape routes for endangered firefighters and access points for RIT
- h. Set high-intensity lighting at points of egress
- i. Ensure Fire Dispatch is monitoring all radio frequencies for emergency transmissions
- j. Withdraw uninvolved crews (those not victims or assigned as rescuers) from affected area
- k. Ensure Sector Officers and personnel continue to operate within the Incident Action Plan and not attempt rescue operations without direction.
- l. When the rescue operations are complete, Command will declare the emergency situation over and a return to normal operations.
- m. A firefighter rescue operation is a stressful event whether it is successful or not. CISM shall be activated to conduct defusing/debriefing as necessary.

**RESCUE OPERATIONS:**

- 1. Command should consider establishing a Rescue Sector to coordinated rescue activities. Such activities include:
  - a. Develop and assign search areas/grids based on information regarding location and situation of missing/lost firefighter
  - b. Deployment of RIT to best access point
  - c. Establish protection zones around endangered firefighter(s)
  - d. Request resources required to perform rescue
  - e. Ensure back up crews are in place
  
- 2. Sector officers and firefighters will continue with assignments as given by Command. They are *not* to redirect their activities without the knowledge and consent of the Incident Commander.

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3. The Rescue Sector supervisor should consider using crewmembers that were with the missing or trapped firefighter(s) as part of the rescue team or as an intelligence resource to help identify the possible location of the lost/trapped firefighter.
4. The RIT should consider the following when searching for missing/lost firefighters:
  - a. Developing information of firefighter's possible location: speak with crewmembers, follow hoseline, identify landmarks
  - b. Implementing a search and rescue plan.
  - c. Identify immediate hazards that could endanger RIT members
  - d. Assign one member of RIT crew to listen for and locate sounds generated by firefighter, SCBA, P.A.S.S, or portable radio.
  - e. Use portable radio feedback to locate firefighter(s)
  - f. Identify fans, lights, or other equipment that may have been used by missing firefighters.
5. The RIT should consider the following when the missing firefighter(s) have been located:
  - a. The RIT team/s should be equipped with RIT Bags and a TIC.
  - b. Assessment of immediate hazards in the area
  - c. Victim status: level of consciousness, ability to assist with rescue, breathing, air supply, injuries, entrapment, etc
  - d. Identify and remove life-threatening conditions. If the victim is not breathing, immediate extrication from the hazardous area is imperative; replacing the air supply will not increase chances of survival.
  - e. Request resource requirements: extrication equipment, manpower, extra air cylinders, area protection, ventilation, lighting, etc
  - f. Identify egress and escape routes

**BUILDING COLLAPSE:**

The following guidelines pertain to building collapse that involves firefighters working in, on, or near a structure that has collapsed:

1. Command and the Sector Officers will immediately initiate an evacuation of the collapse area, rescuing firefighters as necessary.
2. Command will initiate a PAR for all firefighters operating in the sector or area.
3. If it is determined that firefighters are missing, Command will follow the procedures listed above for Lost or Injured Firefighter(s) and Rescue Operations.
4. Command will activate necessary special rescue teams.
5. Rescue crews must be cautious not to cause an additional collapse while searching or removing trapped firefighters from the collapse area.