

Operating Guideline # 801

Evacuation Signal

September 30, 2019



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to establish provisions for standard signals that will be readily recognized to alert fire-fighting personnel to an immediate danger at an incident site.

GUIDELINE:

1. Any member of the department may initiate an emergency signal or radio broadcast when they believe that a condition presenting an immediate and imminent danger to personnel develops on the fireground or incident site.
2. An emergency signal as contemplated by this OG will consist of three long and distinct activations of an apparatus air/electric horn OR the continuous sounding of multiple apparatus sirens AND a radio transmission beginning with "EMERGENCY TRAFFIC, EMERGENCY TRAFFIC, EMERGENCY TRAFFIC..." followed by a brief description of the emergency condition is made (i.e. – "Structural collapse has occurred on the DELTA side of the structure"). Direction to evacuate the building or hot zone (as applicable) shall immediately follow by the individual initiating the declaration.
NOTE: If communication is lost between IC and the entry teams, the truck air horn/siren should be sounded continuously for a prolonged period of time as an alternate method of signaling interior crews to evacuate the building.
3. The Incident Commander shall make immediate inquiries as to the nature of the emergency and confirm the need to evacuate the building/area as applicable. The I/C will either confirm the need to evacuate by radio broadcast or issue alternate orders to crews via radio. The I/C will also ensure that Communications personnel have received/recorded the emergency declaration.
4. If available, the safety officer will report to the IC unless otherwise directed.
5. When an emergency signal is sounded/transmitted, personnel inside a structure will immediately begin to evacuate the structure or area leaving unnecessary equipment behind – immediate evacuation of the building is mandatory.
6. All other radios on the fireground shall immediately observe "radio silence" until the issue has been resolved or direction is transmitted by the I/C.
7. I/C will call for a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) and each sector/crew operating in the hot zone will respond, followed by crews operating in the warm zone.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all members to comply with the provisions of this OG.

REFERENCES:

- Occupational Health and Safety Act (RSO 1990, c. 0.1)
- MLFD OG 817 - Mayday