



Firefighter Down (Fast Fire Attack)

Notes on Firefighter Down:

- Competitors are to bring full personal structural kit.
- Event is Fast attack crew of 4 in Regional areas.
- “May Day Drag” It is the name given to the method of fast doffing of structural firefighting apparel and is not to be confused with a Mayday situation.
- Radios set to fireground channel. OIC or pump operator in contact with Fire comms.

References

FRNSW Mayday Drag Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyjmSLI0B7s>

SOG 1.5 Incident Management – Incident Communications – FRNSW - <https://www.firefighterchampionships.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/SOG-1.5-Incident-communications-1.pdf>

Mayday Firefighter Down Toolkit - <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/remote/index.php?url=http://intranet.nswfire.nsw.gov.au/toolkit/operational/medical-response/mayday-firefighter-down>

Drager: BA Mask Disinfecting- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQSZQizDsws>

Core Competency Skills

PPE, Breathing Apparatus, Pump Operation, Hose Work, Fire Ground Radio Emergency Procedures, Building Entry, Rescue Drills and Teamwork.

Objective

To recover and assist a fire attack crew member experiencing a medical condition inside building.

A crew of four firefighters will be deployed to extinguish a fire in a ground floor building. The crew will be using a class 2 pumper (or similar appliance) and a hose line of two lengths of 38mm flaked hose with shut off branch attached.



Equipment

The appliance will be stowed with two 30m lengths of flaked 38mm hose (joined in flaked hose locker) with shut off branch attached.

Rapid Intervention Kit (RIK) and Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) stowed appropriately.

Four sets of breathing apparatus preoperationally checked ready for use will be stowed on the appliance.

Four helmet connectable radios set to fire ground channel.

Defibrillator, oxygen therapy / first aid kit and salvage sheet for second evolution.

Event Cycle

Part 1 - Fire Attack

On start signal, a crew of 4 firefighters are to dismount the appliance.

The attack crew (2 firefighters) don Breathing Apparatus (BA), and on air in full structural PPE.

Helmet radio is to be turned on and fireground channel selected.

Deploy hose line of two 30m lengths of 38mm flaked hose and run it out to door of building. Pump is to be operated to charge line of hose to 700kPa with water from appliance water tank.

OIC and pump operator to assist with hose deployment, equipment delivery and pump operation.

The items below to be placed in position by competing team during the evolution.

- RIK & TIC to be delivered by crew and available at door entry before entry is gained.
- A salvage sheet will be laid out by crew in a safe position for patient triage. (Triage area will be marked by 2 witches hats). Oxy therapy and defibrillator will also be delivered from appliance to triage position.

The event will be timed until BA attack crew are in position and operate charged branch before entry to building.

The attack crew is to perform correct entry procedures to gain entry and simulate fire control and extinguishment drills inside the building. The “fire” will be marked with witches hats or suitable marker.



Part 2 - Firefighter Down Drill

Once entry to building has been gained and fire extinguished, one of the two entry firefighters is reported to experience a medical or traumatic event and requires assistance to exit the building.

The second firefighter will assist the patient from building and is assisted by crew to convey “victim” to the salvage sheet (triage area).

The crew will carry out the May Day Drag on the victim so a “rapid primary assessment” can be conducted.

A salvage sheet will be laid out in a safe position for patient triage. Oxy therapy and defibrillator will be in position. (These items to be laid out by competing team during the evolution).

The Drill - (FF Down / May Day Drag)

This evolution is not timed, being mindful rapid treatment is essential. (20 seconds should be enough to remove required PPE & apparatus)

- Call from attack crew.
- **Sender:** Press emergency button on radio to send an alert across the radio network, and say:
 - (name or title?) e.g. DC 210, Mayday, Mayday, Mayday. - Firefighter down assistance required.
 - **IC transmits:** “All units stand by. DC 210 go ahead, pass your mayday.
 - **Sender (DC 210) conditions** - DC 210 and FF Jones on hose line on ground floor Alpha. Fire has been extinguished & visibility ok. FF Jones is having a medical event and needs assistance.
 - **Actions:** We are exiting through Alpha entry.
 - **Needs:** Request urgent assistance at entrance and require ambulance attendance. Over.
 - **IC:** I copy. (repeats message and actions to be taken) i.e., request for assistance and confirms resources will be standing by at entry and ambulance has been called.
 - A rapid Primary assessment is conducted. i.e., a rapid DRSABCD prior to progressing to CD.



Safety

When conducting firefighter down (MDD drill), caution should be applied.

- Remove any watches or jewellery from wrist of casualty to avoid dislocations during drill.
- When removing facemask from the casualty – undo the lower 2 straps, pull the mask forward holding the demand valve and lift mask up over the head.
- Place the facemask on the same side as the airline.
- When dragging the casualty – be sure the airline is not across their face. This can catch on noses and lips when being dragged from equipment.
- Not to sacrifice good technique for speed. 20 seconds is very achievable whilst performing this technique in a controlled manner. Remember – “slow is smooth and smooth is fast”.



Firefighter Down and Fast Attack Checklist

PPC	
Boots on – Zipped up	
Boots covered by over - pants	
Flash hood on – under braces	
Struct. Over pants on – closed.	
Struct jacket on – zipped and velcro'd	
Collar - secured around neck	
Structural firefighting gloves on	
PPE	
SCBA donned	
Shoulder and waist straps connected and fitted	
Flash hood fitted to mask no gaps	
Helmet on, buckle secured	
Neck flap out – covering collar	
Helmet comms lead plugged in	
Boom mike over speech diaphragm	
Safety	
Crew dismount using 3 points of contact	
Equipment	
HHT on correct channel and locked	
Appropriate volume set	
HHT secured & turned on in breast pocket	
Radio messaging as per page 3	
Hose connected to delivery & pump to 700 kPa	
Hose suitably deployed for door entry	
Set appropriate branch flow rate (115 or 230 lpm)	
Entry tools & TIC at doorway	
DSU x 2 worn & Tally keys (filled out) to MD at pump	
Defibrillator / oxygen therapy first aid at triage point	
Neck flap out – covering collar	
Helmet comms lead plugged in	
Boom mike over speech diaphragm	

5 seconds will be added to overall time for any miss on the checklist above.

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