

PERSONAL ALERT SAFETY SYSTEM

PERSONAL ALERT SAFETY SYSTEM

Policy

All self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) units shall include a Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) device. The PASS device shall be used whenever the SCBA unit is placed in service.

It is the responsibility of the wearer to insure that the PASS device is activated at the time the SCBA face piece is donned and the regulator main line valve is opened. Additionally, the Company Officer shall verify that all company members have activated PASS devices prior to entering an area where SCBA will be used.

The PASS device will automatically sound a loud pulsating distress signal if the firefighter should become disabled and remain motionless for approximately 30 seconds. The PASS device may also be manually activated by a firefighter in distress. The loud pulsating distress signal will then sound continuously.

When the PASS device is motionless and in the "ARM" position, it will sound a pre-distress signal (low volume) for approximately seven (7) seconds prior to the loud pulsating distress signal sounding. If the firefighter is not in distress, simply tapping or shaking the PASS device will cancel the pre-distress signal and automatically reset the PASS device timer.

The PASS device shall be checked for proper functioning:

- On drill night
- Whenever a replacement unit is issued
- After each use
- Whenever personnel arrive for constant manning or special assignments

The following steps will be followed when checking out a PASS device:

- Check for any visible damage to the SCBA/PASS device
- Place the PASS control knob to the "ON" position. A loud pulsating distress signal should sound immediately. Let the PASS device operate in the distress signal mode for five (5) seconds.
- Next, place the PASS control knob in the "ARM" position. The loud pulsating distress signal should sound briefly, then go silent.
- Let the PASS device remain motionless, the reduced volume continuous pre-distress signal should activate automatically in approximately 30 seconds, then the louder pulsating distress signal should sound after approximately seven (7) seconds.
- Turn the PASS device off.

The PASS device will sound a low volume "beep" signal as a low battery indication when in the "ARM" position. If a low battery is indicated, or any other malfunction, red tag the PASS device. The Company Officer shall notify appropriate staff immediately for a verbal evaluation as to

whether the PASS device alone or the PASS/SCBA ensemble should be exchanged.

All repairs and maintenance of the PASS devices shall be the responsibility of the quartermaster.