

## Standard Operating Guidelines

### **PERSONAL ALERT SAFETY SYSTEM**

Guideline # 310.05

Date: 1/08 R

#### **PURPOSE**

- A. To help prevent the occurrence of a fire fighter being in distress, missing, lost, injured, trapped or unconscious and not being able to summon assistance.
- B. To provide each fire fighter with a device to be worn on the upper right side strap on the PBI turnout coat or the upper left side strap on the Nomex turnout coat. SCBA, which emits an audible alarm signal in order to summon assistance in the event that the fire fighter becomes incapacitated or needs assistance.
- C. To provide each fire fighter with training, which when complete, will give the fire fighter the knowledge and skills necessary to inspect, use, search for, locate and maintain in working order the Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) device.

#### **POLICY**

- A. A PASS shall be worn by all firefighters while operating on the fireground or during training exercises involving firematic hands on training.
- B. Fire fighters will not be permitted to operate in any hazardous environment without a PASS device in operation.
- C. One (1) personnel accountability tag should be hooked on to the open loop end of the tethered key. Should there be a need to remove the turnout coat for any length of time the PASS should be removed and affixed to the waistbelt of the bunker pants.

#### **PROCEDURES**

- A. Before entering a warm or hot zone, the tethered key with the personnel tag should be removed and left with the accountability Officer at the point of entry. This will activate the PASS. To reset the pre alarm, shake the device. To sound full alarm, press alarm button (red button) or remain motionless for 30 seconds. To rest full alarm, press either side button twice. To deactivate, first insert key, and then press reset (switch on right side) twice. When battery is near the end of its life, the "low battery warning" will sound. This is a short "beep" every five (5) seconds. Replace with the proper battery.
- B. This PASS is equipped with a heat sensor that triggers an alarm at preset time/temperature limits. The alarm sounds the same as the signal heard when the unit is turned on. Once the thermal alarm is activated it will repeat every few seconds.

The alarm will self-cancel after a period of time depending on the severity of the condition. Upon receiving a thermal alarm firefighters should notify the IC of the conditions and begin to exit the area.

- C. Each firefighter will be issued a PASS, which must be worn and activated at all incidents and firematic training operations (excluding EMS calls). It will be the responsibility of the firefighter to maintain and care for their PASS device.
- D. Batteries in all PASS devices shall be changed every January and as needed.

## Maintenance & Storage

- a. There are no serviceable parts inside the P.A.S.S. alarm.
- b. Removing the back cover will invalidate the warranty & intrinsic safety certification.
- c. Clean with a damp cloth using soap and water.
- d. Units contaminated by chemical or radioactive materials must be decontaminated or disposed of according to all applicable regulatory standards.
- e. The P.A.S.S. unit should be fully tested before each use.
- f. In the event of any malfunction, notify an officer.
- g. Store P.A.S.S. units in a dry ventilated area at ambient temperatures, consistent with the battery manufacturers recommendations.
- h. The key break away is 2-5 pounds. Replace the key if less force is required.
- i. Do not use cleaning solvents
- j. Do not paint the case.

---

Approved By:

Date:

District Chief:

Date:

Company Chief

