

City of Winter Park Fire-Rescue Standard Operating Guideline

230.03

**Title: Personal Alert Safety System
(PASS)**

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Purpose: To provide a Personal Alert Safety Systems, to be worn by firefighters that will emit an audible alarm signal to summon aid in the event the firefighter becomes incapacitated, or needs assistance.

Scope: These devices and their use will pertain to all fire department personnel while operating in a hazardous environment where the possibility of injury is present.

General:

All personnel involved in rescue, firefighting, or other hazardous duties while wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus, shall use the integrated Personal Alert Safety System device (PASS) provided on the MSA / MMR breathing apparatus. An integrated PASS device system is part of each SCBA unit.

Each device shall be tested on a weekly basis and prior to each use, and shall be maintained in accordance with the manufacturers instructions. All Batteries will be replaced in January and July of each year or any other time indicated. Batteries will only be replaced by a department-authorized technician.

The PASS alarm is integrated into the MSA / MMR SCBA device used by the department. It is activated upon the opening of the air cylinder and must be turned off by the user.

A panic alarm button is located on top of the indicator device. This button may be activated at anytime by the user to indicate a problem. Air does not need to be flowing to initiate a panic alarm.

In the normal operations mode, the PASS will go into the first pre-alarm when 20 seconds of non-movement is detected with four (4) red lights flashing on the outside of the PASS window. After another 5 seconds, the second pre=alarm will sound. After another 5 seconds, the third pre-alarm will sound. After another 5 seconds (totaling 35 seconds), the PASS will go into full alarm. Each pre-alarm and the full alarm have a different tone..

The user must reset the full alarm activation by pressing the side-mounted button on the indicator device twice. This will return the device to normal operation.

Simple movement by the user will reset the pre-alarm warning.

Upon placing the SCBA back in-service (turning off the air cylinder), the user will need to turn off the PASS alarm by depressing the side-mounted button twice. This will deactivate the alarm and turn off the green lights on the indicator panel.

The PASS device also has a low air alarm integrated into the unit. This system is activated when air pressure reaches 1050 PSI and is visible by the illumination of four (4) yellow, flashing lights in the center of the PASS window.

One sets of lights will display on the indicator device:

1 Green light = PASS function is ON - Air Cylinder is OPEN

After 20 seconds of inactivity is noted

4 Red lights/flashing with low audible warning - PASS is in first pre-alert mode.

After another 5 seconds of inactivity is noted, the device will go into the second pre-alert mode.

After another 5 seconds of inactivity is noted, the device will go into the third pre-alert mode.

After another 5 seconds of inactivity is noted (35 seconds total), the device will go into the FULL ALARM MODE.

Once in the FULL ALARM MODE, the user must reset the system by depressing the side-mounted button on the indicator device twice.

4 Red lights/flashing with high audible warning - PASS is in WARNING mode

See the training bulletin entitled, "Personal Alert Safety Systems" for information on usage and testing.

If the device "chirps" or fails to operate in the manner indicated above the entire SCBA is to be taken out-of-service, tagged and placed at the SCBA room for service. If no spare SCBA devices are available, a separate PASS device (old units) may be attached to the SCBA for use until a

spare is available. Spare PASS devices will be available in the Battalion Chief's office.