
Ames Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines

Book: 3 – Emergency Operations
Section: II – Fire Company Operations
Chapter: 6 – **PASS Devices**

Date Approved: 12-04-2007 Revision No.:3

Approved by: 

PURPOSE:

This guideline covers maintenance, testing, and use of the PASS (personal alert safety system) device.

POLICY:

The PASS device is an SCBA-integrated, automatically activated, distress alarm system for firefighters' personal protection. Its maintenance, testing, and use are the responsibility of individual firefighters.

PROCEDURES:

Operating Instructions:

- The PASS device shall be operational whenever you are exposed, or potentially exposed, to any hazardous atmosphere or operation.
- When the air circuit is opened, the system acknowledges activation with three quick audible chirps. A green LED flashes continuously while the system is in its operating mode.
 - If the distress alarm fails to detect motion for approximately 20 seconds, it will go into a pre- alarm mode, signaled by a two-tone audible chirp and a flashing red LED.
 - If no movement is detected for approximately seven seconds after the pre-alarm is triggered, the system goes into full alarm. A three-tone, almost continuous audible alarm is generated and a red LED flashes.
 - Once in full alarm, the system can only be reset by twice depressing the yellow push button on the control console.
 - The system's dual audible and visual alarms will continue to signal the presence of an incapacitated SCBA user for minimum of up to five hours at full sound level. These alarms will continue even after the cylinder's air is spent.
 - The PASS device can be turned off by taking the following actions:
 - Close the cylinder valve.
 - Bleed the air pressure from the regulator with the bypass valve.
 - Twice depress the yellow push button on the control console.
- Manual operation of the system is important in the event the SCBA user becomes lost or disoriented, or otherwise requires emergency assistance.
 - By simply depressing the control console's red push button, the system will go into full alarm.

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- An audible deactivation two-tone beep alerts users to the system being turned off.

Maintenance:

- The PASS device should be tested at the beginning of each shift.
- The PASS device should be cleaned after each use with a damp cloth and checked for physical damage and retested.
- *Do not* wait for a low battery indicator to alert you to needed maintenance.

Batteries:

- Batteries should be replaced in PASS devices every six months.
- There is a battery-life-check indicator built into the reset button that allows a user to also visually check the condition of the battery's life.
- Replacement with a *good quality a 9-volt Alkaline or 9-volt Ultralife® Lithium batteries* is manufacture recommended.

REFERENCES:

Pak-Alert SE® +: Questions and Answers, Tyco/Scott® Health and Safety, Retrieved December 2007 from:

http://www.scotthealthsafety.com/PDFs/QA_pkalert_6097D_505.pdf.