

Central Joint Fire District

Standard Operating Procedure



Central Joint Fire District

SUBJECT: Personal Alert Safety System

SOP Number: 340A
Effective Date: 4/15/00
Revised Date:
Approved:

PURPOSE: The purpose of this standard is to assure that all personnel are prepared to perform emergency operations while maintaining the highest degree of personal safety for all personnel. The use of personal alert safety system (PASS) is an essential part of the complete personal protective equipment provided for members of Central Joint Fire District.

SCOPE: This standard applies to all personnel responding to any type fire, Hazardous Material Incident, or other emergency where this system is indicated.

ENFORCEMENT: Each active member of the Central Joint Fire District bears full responsibility for adherence to this procedure. Authority to deviate from this standard rest with the Incident Commander, and/or Safety Officer, who bears full responsibility for the results of any deviation.

APPLICATION:

340A.1 General

All self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) units shall be outfitted with a Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) device. The PASS device shall be secured on the SCBA lap belt (left side). The PASS device shall be used whenever the SCBA unit is placed in service. When the SCBA equipment is placed in service, the wearer shall activate the PASS device by placing the control knob in the "ARM" position.

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 their PASS devices prior to entering an area where the 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 be manually activated by a firefighter in distress by placing the control knob in the "ON" position. 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.

340A.2 Inspection and Maintenance

The Pass device shall be checked for proper functioning

- 1) Monthly equipment checks
- 2) Whenever a replacement unit is issued
- 3) After each use
- 4) Whenever personnel arrive for constant manning or special assignment

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

- 1) Check for any visible damage to PASS device
- 2) Place the PASS control knob on 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.
- 3) Next, place the PASS control knob in the "ARM" position. The loud pulsating distress signal should sound briefly, then go silent.
- 4) Let the PASS device remain motionless, the reduced volume continuous pre-distress signal should activate automatically in approximately 30 seconds time, then the louder pulsating distress signal should sound after approximately seven (7) seconds.
- 5) Turn the PASS device off by placing the control knob to the "OFF" position.

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 malfunction, remove device from service. The Company Officer shall be notified immediately of this situation.