

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Purpose: To provide Los Angeles County Fire Department (Department) uniformed personnel with the instructions, regulations, and guidelines pertaining to the personal alert safety system (PASS).
 - 1. This instruction does not apply to the integrated PASS on the Honeywell Titan 2013 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
- B. Scope: This instruction applies to all Department uniformed personnel on any incidents where use of a PASS device is indicated.
- C. Administrator: The deputy fire chief of the Leadership and Professional Standards Bureau, through the assistant fire chief of the Training Services Division, shall be responsible for the content, revision, and periodic review of this instruction.
- D. Authority:
 - 1. California Administrative Code, Title 8
 - 2. California Government Code, Sections 25210.5 and 25643
 - 3. General Industry Safety Orders, Article 10.1
- E. Definitions: see Appendix I

II. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Incident commanders shall ensure that all Department uniformed personnel utilize a PASS device when indicated for safety and protection.
- B. Station captains shall ensure that all Department uniformed personnel are trained in the use and maintenance of the PASS.
- C. Firefighter specialists shall inspect, test, and maintain all unassigned PASS on their apparatus in addition to their assigned PASS.
- D. All Department uniformed personnel shall be responsible for the proper operation, use, maintenance, and record keeping of the PASS assigned to their post position.

III. POLICY

- A. The PASS shall be worn and activated in the sensing mode when:
1. Actively engaged in structural firefighting, hazardous materials incidents, confined spaces, tunnel/mine rescue, or similar dangerous operations where a firefighter could become incapacitated.
 2. The commanding officer determines that it is necessary for personal safety.
 - a. Exposure to physical or mechanical hazards
 - b. Building collapse operations
 - c. Weapons of mass destruction incidents
 - d. Situations likely to cause injury

Note: Department uniformed personnel may choose to utilize their PASS on occasions when it is not required by Department policy.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Inspection and testing of assigned PASS shall be conducted daily and after each use.
1. Inspect case for cracks and evidence of severe exposure to heat and to ensure that the battery cover is tight.
 2. Damage requiring repair shall include:
 - a. Deep cracks or splits that may affect the watertight integrity of the case.
 - b. A case that is warped, blistered, or discolored from severe heat.
- B. Testing the PASS:
1. Open the air cylinder valve on the SCBA.

2. Listen for an ascending tone and watch for two blinking green LED lights on the front PASS and back frame PASS.
3. Allow the PASS to remain motionless until the unit cycles through the pre-alert signal and the alarm becomes fully active.

V. USE

A. Alarm modes:

1. Automatic mode: A functional mode in which the motion detector is activated and senses motion of the wearer.
2. Manual mode: A functional mode in which the alarm signal is manually activated by the wearer.
3. Off mode: A functional mode in which the PASS is deactivated with no drain on the power source.

B. Automatic alarm sequence: These events occur in the following order when the PASS is in “automatic” mode.

1. No wearer motion for 20 seconds
2. Pre-alert signal is activated
 - a. This signal will sound for 10 to 12 seconds.

Note: When the pre-alert signal is sounding, the PASS will recycle with wearer movement.

3. If no motion is detected, the alarm signal sounds.
 - a. To recycle once the alarm signal is sounding, depress the yellow button on the front PASS twice.

- G. Low battery warning signals: This feature is only activated when the PASS is in the “automatic” mode.

Note: The PASS will function as designed until the user exhausts the air remaining in the cylinder plus approximately one hour after low battery warning is initially indicated.

- 1. PASS will emit a low volume chirp at 10 second intervals.
- 2. The amber LED on the back PASS and in the heads-up display (HUD) will flash at 10 second intervals.

- H. Maintenance:

- 1. Clean with mild detergent, rinse well, and dry.
 - a. Do not completely submerge unit in water.

- I. Repairs: SCBAs with a PASS requiring repairs shall be sent to the Breathing Apparatus Repair Shop in Pacoima.

- 1. Complete a Form 47.
- 2. Attach a tag securely to the unit.
 - a. Include the following information on the tag and Form 47:
 - 1) Fire Station
 - 2) Apparatus Designation
 - 3) Battalion/Division
 - 4) Description of the problem
- 3. The Breathing Apparatus Repair Shop will coordinate all repairs with the designated vendor. Repaired units will be returned to their assigned location.

APPENDIX I

Definitions:

Alarm signal: An audible warning in a variable or non-continuous tone, with a frequency from 1000 to 4000 Hz, and a minimum sound pressure level of 95 decibels measured at a distance of 9.9 feet, which will sound for a minimum period of one hour.

Motion detector: An integral part of the PASS that is activated in the armed or automatic mode and senses movement, or lack of movement of the wearer.

Operational Signal: An audible and visual signal activated within one second when the PASS is switched to the automatic mode. Indicates that the unit is functioning properly.

Personal alert safety system (PASS): A device worn by firefighters that will emit an audible alarm signal to summon aid in the event the firefighter becomes incapacitated or needs assistance.

Pre-alert signal: An audible warning signal that will sound for about 10 to 12 seconds prior to the alarm signal. The sound pressure of the pre-alert is 30 to 50 percent of the 95 decibel alarm sounded by the (full) alarm signal. Pre-alert functions only in the automatic mode (armed).