



ABINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

OG - 200-106

Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) Device Use Guidelines

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To establish guidelines for the use of Personal Alerting Safety System (PASS) devices by Abington Township Fire Company members, in accordance with NFPA Standard 1500, 7.13 Personal Alert Safety System (PASS).

1.2 This document applies to all Township Fire Companies.

Background:

NFPA 1500 Annex A71.13

The mandatory use and operation of a PASS by fire fighters involved in rescue, fire suppression, or other hazardous duty is imperative for their safety. The primary intent of this device is to serve as an audible device to warn fellow fire fighters in the event a firefighter becomes incapacitated or needs assistance.

Past fire fighter fatality investigation reports document the critical need to wear and operate PASS devices when fire fighters operate in hazardous areas. Investigation results show that fire fighters most often failed to activate the PASS unit prior to entering a hazardous area.

Technology has provided the integration of PASS devices with SCBA. When the SCBA unit is activated to an operational mode, the PASS device is activated. Fire departments are encouraged to utilize this technology. The use of PASS devices should be coupled with a solid incident management system, a personnel accountability system, and adequate communications to properly ensure the safety of fire fighters.

NFPA 1500, 71.13 Personal Alert Safety System (PASS)

71.13.1 Each member shall be provided with, use, and activate his or her PASS devices in all emergency situations that could jeopardize that person's safety due to atmospheres that could be IDLH, incidents that could result in entrapment, structural collapse of any type, or

as directed by the incident commander or incident safety officer.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility to ensure that the actions described in this procedure are carried out belongs to the following.

2.1 Company Members

2.2 Company Officers

3.0 PROCEDURE

3.1 PASS Alarms will be used by all personnel operating at all calls and in all locations on the fireground, exterior as well as interior.

3.2 PASS alarms shall be turned on to the standby position on every call when the fire fighter leaves the apparatus and left on until the fire fighter returns to the apparatus at the conclusion of operations at the call

3.3 In the event of fire fighter's distress, the fire fighter will activate the PASS to the alarm position. Fire fighters in distress will, if needed, follow ATFD Mayday Guidelines,

3.1 Declaring a MAYDAY.

3.4 Firefighters should inform their chain of command when their PASS device is not functioning properly.

4.0 RECORDS

4.1 MAYDAY Guidelines