

## Personal Alert Safety System by Christopher Huston

P.A.S.S. Device or Personal Alert Safety System is used to help locate the wearer in situations where they may be trapped, unconscious or unsure of their location. The 2013 edition of NFPA: 1982 *Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems* marks many changes to the way this device is manufactured, tested and certified. All members should possess proper and relevant knowledge of their departments P.A.S.S. devices. Use this sheet as a guide to start a discussion and hands on lesson!

Discuss the following topics based upon your make and model of P.A.S.S. device:

*Evacuation Alarm*

*Integrated PASS*

*Stand Alone PASS*

*Pre-Alarm*

*Full Alarm*

*Modes: Off, Sensing and Alarm.*

*Reset to sensing mode using the reset button.*

*Low power light in off mode.*

*Low power signal in sensing mode.*

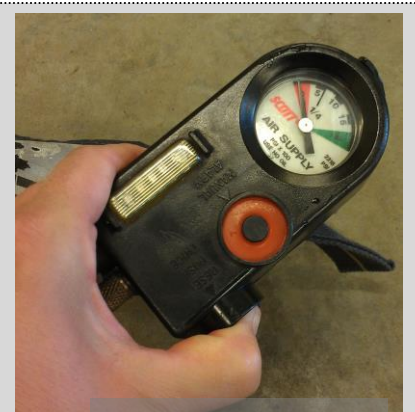
*User full alarm to sensing mode.*

*Sensing mode to full alarm when motionless for how long?*

*The different "chirps" and "clicks" you hear.*

*How do you test the P.A.S.S. during pre-operational checks per the manufacturer and department standards?*

***When staged avoid the "PASS reset dance!" Whenever possible keep your hand on your PASS and click the reset button when its starts to pre-alarm, rather than shaking around! Not only will you know your equipment better, and save energy, it makes us all look more professional!***



Did you know? The pre alarm mode is around 80db and full alarm 110db. This level of sound is very close to a chain saw running. How well can you hear the P.A.S.S. in full alarm while other fireground tasks are going on? Do you practice finding a P.A.S.S. under noisy conditions?