



Chester County

Fire Chiefs Association

Chartered January 17, 1974

Member NFPA

Firefighter Accountability Standard Operating Guideline

Proposed – October 3, 2002

Adopted – November 7, 2002

Purpose

To establish minimum guidelines for operating a county wide Firefighter Accountability System for use at emergency incidents, training exercises and drills. It is not intended to replace any existing system any company or department may use at this time, but to insure that all companies have the minimum tools to fit into any mutual aid company's system.

Requirements

Personnel Accountability Tags (PAT); Quantity is two (2). Minimum size is 1" x 3". The PAT should clearly show firefighters name and station name or number. Suggestions may include but are not limited to:

- Colored coded to the station
- Persons photo
- Baseline vitals
- Emergency contact numbers
- Reflective tape on back of tag for visibility

PAT Collection Rings; To be placed on each apparatus to collect the PAT's from the responding crew. These may stay on the apparatus until they would need to be collected for a Fireground Accountability Report or taken to the Incident Commander / Command Post. These rings should have the apparatus designation on them.

Accountability Clipboard w/ Rings; For use by accountability officers or sector commanders for collection of PAT's at the point of entry into the hot zone. It would also be suggested that the turntables of aerial apparatus be outfitted with a collection ring for persons ascending the device. These clipboards help pinpoint the number and location of persons operating in the hot zone.

Procedure

1. Each firefighter shall be issued two PAT's. The first tag shall be placed on the apparatus' PAT collection ring.

2. The PAT collection ring shall either be left on the apparatus for collection in case of the need for a Fireground Accountability Report or will be collected by the Incident Commander / Command Post.
3. The second tag will be left at the point of entry into the hot zone. It is the firefighters responsibility to make sure that this is done. If able, it is suggested that an Accountability Officer (AO) be given the responsibility of collecting these tags and record the persons assignment and who else they are with. In lieu of an AO, the tags should be left in a designated spot for collection when an AO is available. This designated area may include but is not limited to;
 - a. Right side of doorways
 - b. Below entered windows
 - c. Base of ground ladders
 - d. On collection ring at base of aerial device
4. Personnel leaving the hot zone shall be responsible for retrieving their own PAT. This confirms that they are clear of the hot zone. If personnel exit the hot zone in a different area than they entered, they must return to the point of entry and retrieve their tag.
5. If the Incident Commander, sector officer or AO have an unaccounted for PAT, they shall hold that PAT at that location and;
 - a. Contact the senior officer from that station and ask them to conduct a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) of his/her company.
 - b. If that firefighter remains unaccounted for a mayday shall be declared and a complete fireground PAR be conducted while the RIT team is being placed on alert status.
 - c. If this firefighter remains unaccounted for the Emergency Evacuation Signal shall be sounded and the Department's or Company's RIT Standard Operating Guideline would be followed.
 - d. Mayday declaration remains until the firefighter is located and Mayday is declared under control by the Incident Commander.
6. Accountability should not end until the last unit leaves the scene.