

Fauquier County Department of Fire Rescue

OPERATING PROCEDURE

No. 401


Atmospheric Monitoring Device Calibration and Testing

Effective Date: February 2, 2018 Page 1 of 2

Revision Date: Forms:

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PURPOSE

To define procedure associated with using calibration equipment during daily and monthly atmospheric monitoring device testing.

SCOPE

This procedure applies to all operational personnel within the Fauquier County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management and the Fauquier County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association and its associated departments.

I. POLICY

- A. All personnel released to operate within an IDLH environment shall become familiar with atmospheric monitoring devices and the equipment necessary to perform daily “bump testing” and monthly calibration.
- B. Calibration and testing equipment should be kept in a climate controlled and clean environment at all times. Calibration and testing equipment is sensitive and can be impacted by varying changes in temperature as well as excessive dirt and grime that can accumulate on the device.
- C. Personnel which are not familiar with the use of approved devices should not attempt to operate the device without supervision by trained personnel.

II. TEST PROCEDURES:

- A. All Atmospheric Monitoring Devices will be “bump tested” every morning during vehicle and equipment check outs and prior to 0800 hours for 24 hour staffed stations.

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- B. 12 hour staffed stations will perform checks Monday-Friday prior to 0800 hours during vehicle and equipment checks. Volunteer personnel at 12 hour staffed stations should attempt to perform “bump testing” on days when career staff are not present to ensure device functions appropriately.
- C. To begin the process of testing the meters they will need to be turned on prior to placing in the calibration station.
- D. Once the test has begun DO NOT remove the device while test is in progress.
- E. If necessary, the calibration station will prompt personnel that monthly calibration is needed and begin to perform a complete system check.
- F. Gas cylinders shall not be removed from the calibration station by anyone except Logistics personnel.
- G. Should the calibration station show the need for gas replacement by indicating less than 10% gas left, personnel shall immediately contact the Logistics Officer to begin the process of procuring additional gas cylinder for the station.
- H. Each calibration station contains an SD memory card that stores each test which is performed. This card should not be removed from the device for any reason other than by Logistics Officer to transfer information for record keeping purposes each month.
- I. Should a meter indicate a need for repair, personnel will first remove the meter from the calibration station allow for system reset and then re-install device to attempt a second test. If after the second test the device still indicates repairs are needed, personnel shall contact the Logistics Officer and take the unit out of service.
- J. Damaged meters or calibration stations should be reported for repairs through the Industry Safe reporting software.
- K. At no time should meters or calibration devices be exposed to exhaust fumes in an effort to “test” the devices.
- L. ALL atmospheric monitoring meters should be tested after use in which they have encountered an IDLH atmosphere before being placed back in to service in an effort to ensure no damage to sensors has occurred.

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