



WASHINGTON COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE ASSOCIATION STANDARDS MANUAL

Title: Personal Accountability System

Effective Date: 02/01/1999

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Purpose:

Because of the dangers that are present on emergency scenes, an accountability system is imperative to ensure the safety of all personnel operation at an incident. The accountability system helps the Incident commander to easily and quickly identify the number of personnel on the scene, eliminate free-lancing and expedite assistance in the event personnel become trapped or need help.

It should be noted that this is a county wide system and the same procedures are utilized when responding even inside city limits.

The basic components of the system are Personnel Accountability Tags (PAT), collector rings for each response vehicle and an accountability boards to be used at the command post.

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTABILITY TAGS (PAT)

The Personnel Accountability Tags (PAT) is provided by the Washington County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association. The PAT is a yellow laminated card with the name, training level and individual's picture on one side and the Washington County Fire and Rescue Association Logo on the other. On the inside of the card is emergency medical information to assist in medical care should personnel require it—this information is available by cutting the card's lamination open.

Each PAT has a clip attached. When personnel are not involved in response functions or on apparatus, the PAT is clipped to the back of ring of the responder's helmet.

When riding apparatus or performing activities at scenes, the clip is used to attach the PAT to the collector ring of the apparatus.



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COLLECTOR RINGS

Each vehicle shall have a collector ring(s) for the PAT's with the unit designation attached to it. There shall be a collector ring hanging on the inside of the officer door in a conspicuous location. The crew area(s) of each vehicle shall have a collector ring(s) readily accessible so that personnel may attach their PAT's. Because of the differences in the crew compartmentation of apparatus, the following locations for the collector rings shall be used:

1. On apparatus with open jump seat areas or large enclosed crew areas, the collector ring shall hang from the ceiling in the center of the vehicle so that it is readily accessible to personnel from either side of the vehicle.

With apparatus that have enclosed crew areas that are limited to each side of the vehicle with no access to opposite sides, there shall be a collector ring available to each crew area—one for each side of the apparatus.

LEVEL I ACCOUNTABILITY

Level I Accountability is for normal, routine everyday use where the danger level is minimal and the situation is not complex. This level shall be utilized any time the vehicle leaves the station—road test, training, emergency call, etc.

The person in the right front seat, if present, shall hang their PAT on the collector ring located on the inside of the passenger's door. The driver can also hang their PAT on the collector ring inside the passenger's door.

Other personnel shall place their PAT's on the collector ring located in their crew compartment. In level I Accountability, the PAT's stay on the collector rings with the apparatus. If someone responds to an incident by any means other than a response vehicle that has a collector ring, they must place their PAT on the collector ring located on the officer's door of the piece of



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apparatus located on either side one or side three of the incident before performing any activity.

If there is no collector ring present in the apparatus; this indicates that Accountability has progressed to either Level II or III. The PAT needs to be taken to the command post to be placed on the accountability board before taking any actions on the scene. Personnel who are riding response apparatus do not remove their PAT until they have returned to their station. Personnel who responded by means other than a vehicle with a collector ring must obtain their PAT when they leave the scene and place it back on their helmet.

LEVEL II ACCOUNTABILITY

In a multiple company response where there is no evidence of a working situation (such as an automatic alarm, street alarm, etc.), the person assuming command needed to identify company responsibilities and their location on the incident. This may be written or by some other means so that all assignments given can be quickly identified at any point of time during the incident. The PAT's placed to identify the areas where personnel are operating. (Prior to the arrival of the PAT's to the command post, a grease pencil can be used for this)

LEVEL III ACCOUNTABILITY

This level is utilized for multiple alarms, large area incidents, and other complex operations and shall be Point of Entry Control. The Incident Commander shall establish sectors for the incident, with each sector utilizing an accountability board for personnel operating within that area. The Incident Commander shall have a board indicating sectors, officers assigned to each sector, and a listing of all units operating in each sector.