PRINCE GEORGE FIRE AND EMS

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Section No: 2.21 | Date: 7-13-2023

Title: Gas Monitors | Authorized By:

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish a procedure for the use, care and maintenance of Gas monitoring devices.

II. Policy:

Prince George Fire and EMS, an All Hazardous Department, responds to a wide array of calls for service. Many call types such as structure fires, gas leaks, and other hazardous material incidents require members to monitor air quality to ensure the safety and well-being for the members and citizens alike. All members of Prince George Fire and EMS must adhere to the contents of this policy to ensure the proper use, care and maintenance of the Gas monitoring devices.

III. Application:

Prince George Fire and EMS utilizes the MSA Altair 5X gas monitoring systems. These monitors are designed with the following sensors: Combustible Gas Sensor, Oxygen Sensor, Carbon monoxide/ Hydrogen sulfide, and Hydrogen cyanide. These monitors shall be utilized on all primary engines and approved secondary units such as Tankers, or Rescues. This approval shall only be granted by the Chief of Fire and EMS. Single Gas Detectors, such as Ammonia detectors, may be utilized when approved by the Chief of Fire and EMS.

IV. Use:

Safety of responders is the first priority of Prince George Fire and EMS, therefore, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and PPE shall be worn when conducting air quality monitoring. The SCBA shall remain worn until the Incident Commander deems the air quality safe. At minimum, air quality monitoring shall be conducted at all structure fires, gas leaks, hazardous material spills/ releases and any other call type deemed necessary by the Incident Commander. Only trained and qualified personnel shall operate and use the gas monitors while operating in an IDLH.

Only Prince George Fire and EMS approved gas monitors shall be authorized for use during air quality monitoring. Monitors in use must:

a. Must be checked properly prior to use.
b. Must be fully charged prior to use.
c. Must have in date, fully functioning sensors with no end of life warnings.
d. Must not have any error symbols or warnings.
e. Must be in date and calibrated.

V. Care/ Maintenance:

Prince George Fire and EMS Logistics Division will oversee and maintain all testing/ calibration records for all Gas monitoring devices. The testing and calibration shall only be conducted in an approved calibration system by those individuals trained and certified to utilize the approved device. Gas monitoring devices should be:

a. Turned on and pump tested daily and before each use.
b. Fresh Air set up daily and before each use.
c. Ensured they are fully charged prior to use.
d. Bump tested daily and/ or before each use.
e. If bump test fails, calibration shall be performed prior to use.
f. Taken out of service should any defect be found or test is failed.
g. Regardless of bump test results, ALL monitors should be calibrated at a minimum of every six months

There are several indicators and symbols that will appear on the gas monitor when the device is in need of service. For example, a heart symbol will appear next to the sensor type which indicates “End of Life” for that particular sensor. For further details on symbols and maintenance indicators, please refer to the user manual. Any maintenance indicator should result in the gas monitor immediately coming out of service and the Logistics division notified.

All repairs, sensor replacement and maintenance task shall be performed by MSA training and certified technicians.

Clean the exterior of the device regularly using only a damp cloth. Do not use cleaning agents as many contain silicones which will damage the combustible sensor.

For specific care recommendations, please refer to the current product manual for the device.

VI. Storage:

When not in use, store the device in a safe, dry place between 18 °C (65 °F) and 30 °C (86 °F). After storage, always recheck device calibration before use. If not to be used in 30 days, remove battery pack or connect it to a charger.