

Why did MSA choose the 900 MHz, license-free radio frequency to transmit information between the base station and the FireHawk® M7 Air Mask with telemetry?

MSA chose 900 MHz for several reasons. First, it's license-free, therefore a higher power signal can be used without a license. The second reason is because 900 MHz has a good combination of reflective and penetrative RF characteristics for optimal range performance within building structures. Lower frequencies penetrate well over short distances, but don't reflect or travel well through small openings that might be needed for longer distances indoors. Higher frequencies above 900 MHz don't penetrate building materials as well; however, they disseminate more efficiently through small openings. The 900 MHz band has a good combination of reflection and penetration for this application.



MSA Accountability System Base Station

How many firefighters can the system monitor at the same time?

The MSA Accountability System is capable of monitoring 50 firefighters per base station. It is possible to connect two base stations to a single laptop for up to 100 firefighters.

What components are necessary to make the MSA Accountability System functional?

The system requires the following components: FireHawk M7 Air Mask equipped with telemetry module, ID tags (for firefighter or team identification), a Reader/ID Tag Writer, a Base Station Kit, and a laptop computer (not supplied by MSA).



ID Tag and Reader

M7 Control Module

How is a firefighter's name assigned to the FireHawk® M7 Air Mask with telemetry?

Each firefighter is given an ID tag programmed with his or her name. At the beginning of each shift during SCBA inspection, the firefighter presses the mode button of the FireHawk M7 Air Mask control module and scans the ID tag, transferring the user information electronically. The FireHawk M7 Air Mask ID tags can only be used with Firehawk M7 Air Masks equipped with telemetry and Firehawk Reader/ID Tag Writer. ICM TxR tags can only be used with ICM TxR and its Reader/Writer.

What if a firefighter forgets to "tag in"?

The FireHawk M7 Air Mask control module stores a firefighter's name in its memory for 24 hours. After that time, the unit resorts to the serial number. If a firefighter forgets to "tag in", the serial number will be seen by incident command; the firefighter will still be accounted for.

Will the system work if our department does not want to issue ID tags to each firefighter?

Yes. MSA designed our system to be customized to your needs. You can permanently name the FireHawk M7 Air Mask control module by apparatus number and seat position (such as Engine 9, seat 2). This will automatically create a team on the base station software (Engine 9) and place that firefighter in the second position.

How will incident command (IC) know when critical events occur on the fireground?

When critical events occur, such as the sounding of PASS devices or low-pressure alarms, it is important to keep IC informed. The base station automatically recognizes these events and that critical information is announced on the laptop screen via pop-up windows. The event type and firefighter name are included in the message. As IC has many responsibilities and may not be constantly watching the computer screen, audible alarms also alert IC of critical events. When a PASS alarm occurs, the laptop computer alarms, using the same tones as the integrated PASS device. When a low-pressure alarm activates, the laptop sounds the distinctive Audi-Larm® Audible Alarm ring. Other events, such as thermal alarms, low battery conditions, and radio contact, can also be set up to inform IC on the laptop screen.



MSA Accountability Screen

How will IC and the firefighter know if radio contact is out of range?

IC is alerted that a firefighter is out of range from the base station when an "X" appears over the radio signal icon. The firefighter will be alerted by the FireHawk M7 Air Mask control module's blinking radio icon.

What information is displayed for IC?

IC can see on air vital statistics for each firefighter at the fireground such as air pressure, time remaining, radio contact, and evacuation acknowledgement. Also visible are team assignments and tasks assigned to each team. The software also has an integrated PAR (personnel accountability report) timer that can be set for any departmental time interval used to conduct PAR.

Note: This bulletin contains only a general description of the products shown. While uses and performance capabilities are described, under no circumstances shall the products be used by untrained or unqualified individuals and not until the product instructions including any warnings or cautions provided have been thoroughly read and understood. Only they contain the complete and detailed information concerning proper use and care of these products.



ID 0107-18-MC / September 2012

© MSA 2012. Printed in U.S.A.

How does the MSA Accountability System aid in firefighter evacuations?

Incident Command can evacuate a single firefighter, a team of firefighters, or all firefighters on the scene with a single button click. When IC presses the Evacuate button, the button turns red, confirming that the message has been sent. When the firefighter receives the message, the Evacuation button turns yellow; IC knows that the firefighter has received the message. The firefighter recognizes the evacuation message by double-clicking the FireHawk M7 Air Mask control module's side button, sending back to IC that the evacuation signal has been acknowledged. The Evacuation button is now green.

What happens if a fire requires mutual aid? Will the system keep track of only firefighters in my department?

No. If the mutual aid department also uses an MSA Accountability System, with either the ICM TxR or FireHawk M7 Air Mask with telemetry, their units will appear on the laptop. If the mutual aid department is not an MSA Accountability System user, IC can manually add those firefighters to the system to keep track of all firefighters on the scene.

Can the MSA Accountability System generate incident reports?

Yes. The software captures all of the information from each incident. The downloaded information can then be viewed in various reports when needed.



Firefighter Statistics Display



Evacuation Sequence

Corporate Center
1000 Cranberry Woods Drive,
Cranberry Township, PA 16066 USA
Phone 724-776-8600
www.MSAafety.com

U.S. Customer Service Center
Phone 1-800-MSA-2222
Fax 1-800-967-0398

MSA Canada
Phone 1-800-672-2222
Fax 1-800-967-0398

MSA Mexico
Phone 01 800 672 7222
Fax 52-44 2227 3943

MSA International
Phone 724-776-8626
Toll Free 1-800-672-7777
Fax 724-741-1559
Email msa.international@msanet.com

Offices and representatives worldwide
For further information: