

Case Study:

City of Easton (PA) Fire Department

LUNAR® Connected Devices Enhance Accountability on the Fireground



The Situation

Firefighting is inherently dangerous. The City of Easton's responsibility to ensure the safety of all of their firefighters, while ensuring public safety, led to their research for a personnel accountability system. Of particular interest was a search and rescue tool to aid in finding downed firefighters in mayday situations quickly.



The Challenge

Research shows that 88% of successful rapid intervention team (RIT) rescues come from firefighters *within the structure*.¹ This factor should be considered given the common department practice of having a dedicated RIT for the immediate search and rescue of any injured, trapped, or unaccounted for firefighters. This approach heavily relies on Incident Command being established and tools *external to the structure* being used. With the uncertainty and criticality of every mayday situation, departments should evaluate solutions that help ensure success from within the structure.

1 Abbott, Don. Project Mayday, 2019, projectmayday.net/public/res/pdf/2015%20_2019_PM_Career.pdf.



“ Having the LUNAR devices and the G1 SCBAs paired together will give us better overall safety on the fireground, which will better help us protect our citizens. ”

Henry Hennings
Fire Chief
City of Easton Fire Department



The Solution

After evaluation, the City of Easton Fire Department selected MSA's LUNAR Connected Device – one for each of its 50 firefighters.

The LUNAR device is a wireless, handheld search and rescue device that features: exclusive Firefighting Assisting Search Technology (F.A.S.T), which combines distance and direction with thermal imaging; thermal imaging enhanced with edge detection; cloud connectivity to send real-time stats to Incident Command and remote monitoring personnel; and a unique LUNAR-to-LUNAR network that keeps each device connected to others.

According to Fire Chief Henry Hennings, LUNAR devices paired with their MSA G1 SCBAs offer better accountability of their firefighters and better overall management of the fireground. That gives him peace of mind that the department is doing everything they can to protect their firefighters.

Using the G1 SCBA in conjunction with the LUNAR Connected Device on the fireground provides multiple advantages, including scene monitoring, unmatched situational awareness, individual accountability for all firefighters, enabled cloud connectivity, and open radio traffic.

Deputy Chief Chad Gruver believes that the LUNAR device's F.A.S.T. technology will be a huge asset for their firefighters in finding downed team members, citing that almost 90% of mayday rescues are done by other firefighters that are already in the building, not necessarily by the RIT. He especially likes a firefighter's ability to activate an alarm button on the LUNAR device to send a signal out to everybody that help is needed.

Firefighter Neil Bennett feels confident knowing that his colleagues who are on scene with him – everyone using LUNAR devices – can locate him quickly if something happens to him.

When Mayor Sal Panto saw a demonstration of the LUNAR device, he felt it was a phenomenal tool to help their firefighters save lives and a great piece of equipment that they needed.



Ongoing Commitment

MSA understands the complexities of a large-scale implementation of new safety technology equipment. To ensure a smooth transition, MSA worked with department leadership to customize and execute a detailed plan that met the unique needs of the City of Easton Fire Department during implementation. It included on-site hands-on orientation, setup, training, and support.

The department will continue to benefit from MSA's Connected Firefighter Platform and commitment to develop technologically-advanced safety equipment to help protect firefighters on the job.