



MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

INFORMATION BULLETIN

NUMBER: 07-16

September 4, 2007

SUBJECT: Implementation of New Four-Gas Meters

Currently, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service first responder gas meters comprise several different manufacturers and generations, including some that are discontinued models, with limited or unavailable replacement parts. The existing meters lack the state-of-the-art technology that would enable our first responders to safely and accurately evaluate and mitigate hazardous incidents. Fortunately, MCFRS was recently awarded a grant from MEMA that supported a complete changeover of first responder gas meters.

This MEMA grant will provide all responders with a uniform four-gas meter which all primary units will carry, enabling our personnel to measure oxygen levels, lower explosive limits, hydrogen sulfide, and carbon monoxide. This new system will also permit monthly automated calibration to be conducted at the Battalion level, performed with the use of a docking station located at each Battalion office. The docking station will record data, recharge batteries, perform instrument diagnostics, and automatically forward this data to a centralized location. The procurement of these meters will greatly enhance the safety and performance of our personnel, and improve equipment maintenance.

The transition to these new meters will be completed during the next few months. Instructors will conduct two-hour orientation sessions. Concurrent with this training, the docking stations will be installed at the Battalion offices, and the meter maintenance program will be centralized at the SCBA shop. As these activities are completed, the existing meters will be exchanged for the new units. The projected goal for completion is December 1, 2007.

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