

PAK-ALERT SE® +

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q&A



tyco / **SCOTT**[®]
HEALTH AND SAFETY

Q. What is the Pak-Alert SE® + Distress Alarm?

A. The Pak-Alert SE + is a distress alarm system designed to help locate firefighters and industrial SCBA users who become incapacitated and are unable to call for assistance.

In addition, the Pak-Alert SE + alarm may be employed by the SCBA user to signal his or her presence when becoming lost or disoriented during emergency conditions. It is a particularly valuable tool when the user is in a smoke-filled or oxygen-deficient atmosphere and becomes separated from other SCBA users.

Q. Is the Pak-Alert SE + distress alarm the same as a PASS device?

A. Yes. The Pak-Alert SE + alarm is the first distress alarm integrated with the air circuit of a self contained breathing apparatus. The Pak-Alert SE + alarm protection is activated as soon as the air circuit is turned on.

Q. Why is automatic activation of the Pak-Alert SE + distress alarm important?

A. SCBA users, such as firefighters, often arrive at hectic emergency situations. With the Pak-Alert SE + alarm's automatic activation, you don't have to deal with an additional piece of equipment, like a separate PASS. You can't forget to turn on the Pak-Alert SE alarm because the distress alarm is activated as soon as the SCBA cylinder valve is opened. (Manual activation is also possible before activating the air circuit.)

Q. Is automatic activation required by the PASS standard NFPA 1982 (1998 Edition)?

A. Yes. NFPA requires that the PASS device shall be automatically activated.

Q. Is the Pak-Alert SE + alarm retrofitable to my Scott Air-Pak SCBA?

A. Yes. Just like the Pak-Alert 1000 alarm, the Pak-Alert SE + can be easily retrofitted on your Scott Air-Pak SCBA.

Q. What are the improvements made in the Pak-Alert SE + alarm over the Pak-Alert® 1000 alarm?

- A. There are four main changes that were designed into the SE + version of Pak-Alert that bring the system into NFPA certification.
1. A pre-alert that ramps up in volume and is louder than the previous model.
 2. Extended battery life now allows up to 1,000 hours of use from a typical standard alkaline 9-volt battery.
 3. An audible deactivation two-tone beep alerts users to the system being turned off.
 4. A battery life check indicator built into the reset button that allows a user to visually check the condition of the battery's life.

Q. Does the Pak-Alert SE + alarm rely on cylinder air pressure to operate?

A. No. Although the system may be initially activated by opening the air circuit, Pak-Alert SE + alarm's motion detector mechanism and alarm sequence are powered independently by battery. That means that even after a cylinder's air is spent, Pak-Alert SE + alarm will continue to offer distress alarm protection.



Q. How does an SCBA user know the Pak-Alert SE +[®] distress alarm is activated?

A. When the air circuit is opened, the system acknowledges activation with three quick audible chirps. A visual signal – a green LED – flashes continuously while the system is in its operating mode.

Q. How does the Pak-Alert SE + distress alarm work?

A. The Pak-Alert SE + system monitors the SCBA user's motion. If the distress alarm fails to detect motion for approximately 20 seconds, it will go into a pre-alarm mode, signaled by a two-tone audible chirp and a flashing red LED. If the user continues to remain motionless, the system will go into a full alarm approximately seven seconds after the pre-alarm.

Q. Is an unnecessary pre-alarm easily canceled?

A. Yes. "Hands-free" reset from the pre-alarm mode means that a resting SCBA user may easily cancel the pre-alarm by making a movement as simple as turning side to side. Manually resetting the system is not necessary, although the system may be manually reset by depressing the control console push button.

Q. Can a pre-alarm go undetected?

A. The Pak-Alert SE + alarm's pre-alarm mode is designed to be easily identified by means of the flashing LED and audible signal. This is a big advantage in distinguishing a Pak-Alert SE + in pre-alarm from other nearby units.

Q. What about an SCBA user who is incapacitated?

A. If no movement is detected approximately seven seconds after the pre-alarm is triggered, the system goes into full alarm. A three-tone, almost continuous audible alarm is generated at 95 dBA and red LED flashes a visual signal. Once in full alarm, the system can only be reset by twice depressing the yellow push button on the control console.

Q. Why are dual audible and visual alarms important?

A. Like such Scott systems as the Vibralert[®] low-pressure cylinder alarm and the Air-Pak[®] Fifty[™], 2.2/3.0/4.5 and NxG₂ SCBA pressure reducer, dual systems offer the SCBA user an added measure of safety. Pak-Alert SE + has dual audible and visual alarms. The audible alarm is generated by means of two separate sounders on the system's sensor module. Should one speaker become submerged or blocked, an audible alarm will still be emitted from the second speaker. The visual alarm consists of flashing LEDs.

Q. How long will a full alarm continue?

A. The system's dual audible and visual alarms will continue to signal the presence of an incapacitated SCBA user for minimum of up to five hours at full sound level. These alarms will continue even after the cylinder's air is spent.

Q. Can the system's full alarm be activated by an SCBA user in trouble, but not incapacitated?

A. Yes. By simply depressing the control module's red push button, the system will go into full alarm. Manual operation of the system is important in the event the SCBA user becomes lost or disoriented, or otherwise requires emergency assistance. While the red alarm push button and yellow reset push button are recessed to prevent accidental activation, they are still easy to operate, even with gloved hands. The control console integrates the cylinder pressure gauge and is conveniently located on the user's right shoulder harness.



Q. How are batteries used to power the system?

A. The Pak-Alert SE +[®] alarm’s motion sensor, audible and visual alarms are powered by battery. The Pak-Alert SE + alarm was originally approved for use with Alkaline batteries. Now, either 9-volt Alkaline or 9-volt Ultralife[®] Lithium batteries may be used. Both types of batteries are user replaceable and approved for use by NIOSH.

The following list compares Pak-Alert SE operation with the two types of batteries.

Pak-Alert SE + battery life (approximate)		
Pak-Alert Function	Alkaline Battery	Ultralife Battery
Normal operation with activated system (green flashing LED)	1,000 Hours*	2,000 Hours*

* Two fully charged batteries.

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