Disclaimer: All Best Practices are provided as a guide for departments by the Pennington Co. Fire Service Board. These are for general guidance and should be modified by each department based on their own individual rules or standard operating guidelines/policies. Each department within Pennington Co. is ultimately liable for its own operations and practices.

PREMISE: Firefighter’s work in varied and complex environments and face myriad of hazards that increase their risk of on-the-job death or injury.

PURPOSE: It is the purpose of this practice to:
1. Reduce the risk of on-the-job injuries or death
2. Comply with the requirement of NFPA 1500
3. Become familiar with the operation, testing and maintenance of personal alert safety system (PASS) devices

SCOPE: This practice is recommended for all personnel involved in operations requiring the use of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

HISTORY: Original Release October 14, 1992
Revised July 10, 2013

OPERATING PRACTICE:

1. General
   A. PASS devices should be worn and used by all Pennington County fire service personnel using SCBA's.
   B. Personnel should assure that PASS devices are working properly before entering the hazardous area.
   C. Personnel experiencing PASS device malfunction should immediately leave the hazard area with his/her partner.
   D. Personnel should become familiar with the PASS devices in use to avoid unintentional PASS sounding and shall learn to recognize the audible warning as a call for assistance.
   E. When a PASS device audible warning sounds:
      1. The origin of the warning should be immediately investigated; and
      2. The Incident Commander should be notified.
   F. All PASS devices used by the Pennington County fire service should meet the requirements of NFPA 1982, “Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS) for Firefighter's".
2. Operation
   A. Prior to each use, the PASS device should be tested to ensure that the audible and visual alarms are functioning.
   B. The PASS device should be worn high on the turnout coat (such as attached to the neck strap) so that it will sense the highest temperature to which the wearer is exposed, be easily heard, and my easily be manually activated should help be required.
   C. The temperature warning function of the PASS device is intended to supplement, not replace, the firefighter’s own judgment as to unsafe temperature conditions.
   D. The battery should be replaced when the battery warning sounds.

3. Testing
   A. Each PASS device should be tested and maintained in accordance with the manufacture instructions. Test records should be maintained.