

MSA HUB Fire Service FAQs

The MSA HUB is a part of the Connected Firefighter Platform, and offers a local monitoring solution for air management and accountability. In conjunction with MSA's FireGrid™ Monitor, the on-scene monitoring application, the MSA HUB provides Incident Command data such as firefighter status and air management information, enhancing firefighter safety and the ability to make more confident decisions.

Why did MSA choose the 900 MHz, license-free radio frequency to transmit information between the HUB and the MSA SCBA 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.

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

Each MSA HUB is capable of monitoring 50 firefighters. Our telemetry network is capable of supporting 4 MSA HUBs, for a maximum of 200 firefighters in the same geographical area which is approximately 1 mile line of sight.

What components are necessary to make the MSA HUB system functional?

The system requires the following components: MSA SCBA equipped with telemetry module, ID tags (*for firefighter or team identification*), a Reader/ID Tag Writer, a HUB Kit, and a device such as tablet (*not supplied by MSA*).

How is a firefighter's name assigned to the SCBA 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 SCBA control module and scans the ID tag, transferring the user information electronically. The SCBA ID tags can only be used with SCBA equipped with telemetry and a Reader/ID Tag Writer.

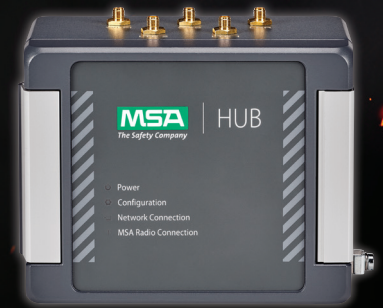
What if a firefighter forgets to "tag in"?

The SCBA 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 SCBA control module by apparatus number and seat position (*such as Engine 9, seat 2*). This will automatically create a team on the HUB's software (*Engine 9*) and place that firefighter in the second position.

WHEN YOU GO IN, WE GO IN WITH YOU.



MSA HUB Fire Service



A2 Reader/ID Tag Writer



G1 Control Module

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 HUB automatically recognizes these events and that critical information is announced on the monitoring dashboard. 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. Other events, such as low battery conditions and lost connectivity are also visible on the monitoring application screen.

How will IC and the firefighter know if connection is lost between the HUB and FireGrid Monitor?

When connection is lost, a banner appears on FireGrid Monitor alerting IC of the connection status, duration of the lost connection, and estimated remaining air pressure. The firefighter will be alerted by the SCBA 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.

How does the MSA HUB system aid in firefighter evacuations?

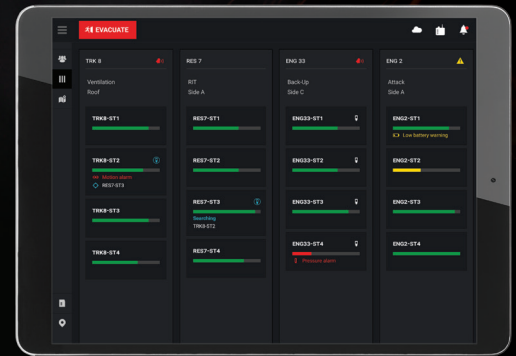
Incident Command can evacuate a team of firefighters or all firefighters on the scene with a single button click. When IC presses the Evacuate button, the button turns grey, confirming that the message has been sent. When the firefighter's SCBA receives the evacuation message, there is a "received" confirmation in the monitoring application so IC knows that the firefighter has received the request. Once the firefighter addresses the evacuation message by double-clicking the SCBA control module's side button, sending back to IC that the evacuation signal has been acknowledged, the IC will see an "acknowledged" confirmation in the monitoring application.

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

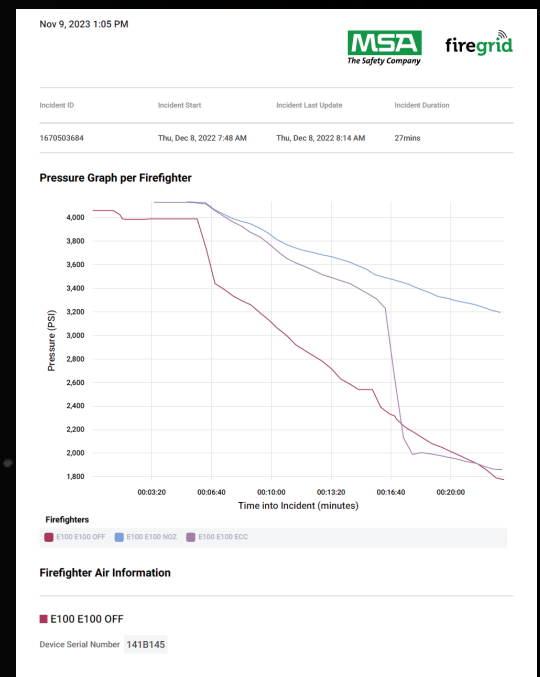
No. If the mutual aid department also uses an MSA telemetry-enabled SCBA, their units will appear on the monitoring application.

Can the MSA HUB system generate incident reports?

Yes. The FireGrid Reporting application automatically captures information from each incident. The personnel and device information can then be indefinitely viewed in reports when needed.



FireGrid Monitor



MSA FireGrid Reports

Note: This Bulletin contains only a general description of the products shown. While product uses and performance capabilities are generally described, the products shall not, under any circumstances, be used by untrained or unqualified individuals. The products shall not be used until the product instructions/user manual, which contains detailed information concerning the proper use and care of the products, including any warnings or cautions, have been thoroughly read and understood. Specifications are subject to change without prior notice. MSA is a registered trademark of MSA Technology, LLC in the US, Europe, and other Countries. For all other trademarks visit <https://us.msasafety.com/Trademarks>.