



Firefighter Safety Systems in High Rise Buildings Report

Presented by:
Robert Sapien, Jr., Fire Chief

Public Safety, Finance, and Strategic Support Committee
Thursday, December 10, 2020
Item: d (1)



Firefighter Breathing Air Systems (FBARS or FARS)



On August 10, 2020, the PSFSS Committee heard the Fire Department's Firefighter Safety Systems in High Rise Buildings Report and directed the following:

1. Provide a description of costs related to the Department's response to high rise buildings.
2. Provide a description of costs related to the installation of fire service access elevators (FSAE) and firefighter breathing air replenishment systems (FBARS).
3. Return to the committee in 90 days to allow IAFF Local 230 additional time to evaluate the Department's report.



Firefighter Breathing Air Systems (FBARS or FARS)



City FBARS required:

- High-Rise Buildings
- Two or more floors underground
- Tunnels greater than 500' in length
- Where emergency vehicle access point is greater than 150' from nearest entrance to the building





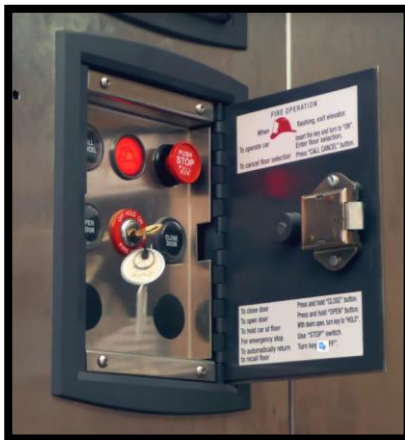
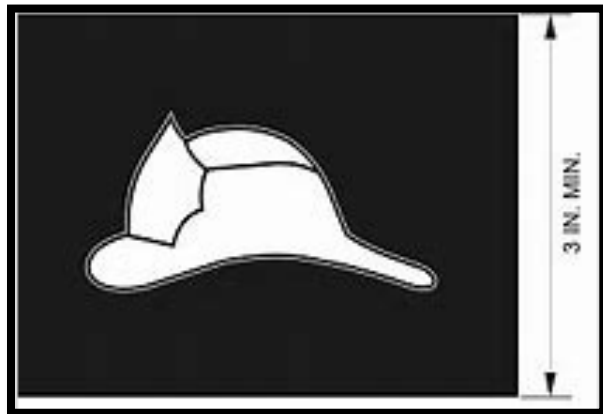
High-Rise Buildings in San José



High-Rise Buildings	Number of High-Rise	Average Height	FBARS
Existing	98	155'	11 systems installed
Under Construction	13	215'	13 systems required
Plans Submitted	39	236'	39 systems required



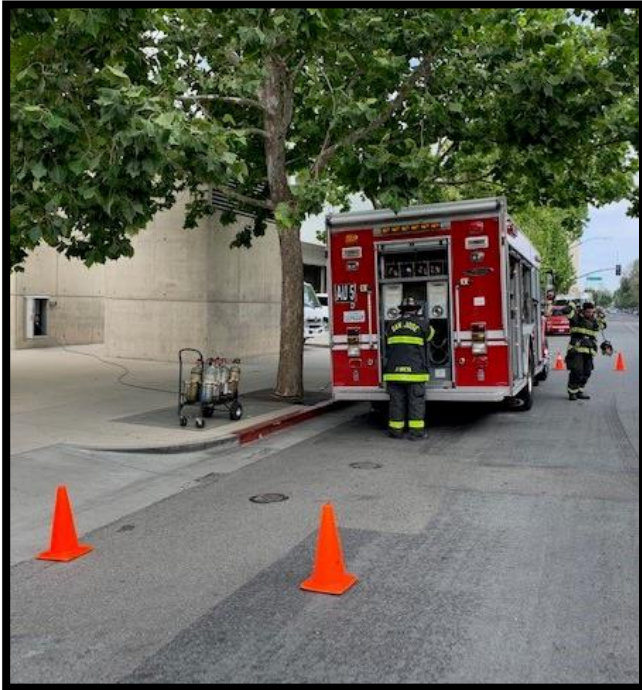
Fire Service Access Elevators (FSAE)



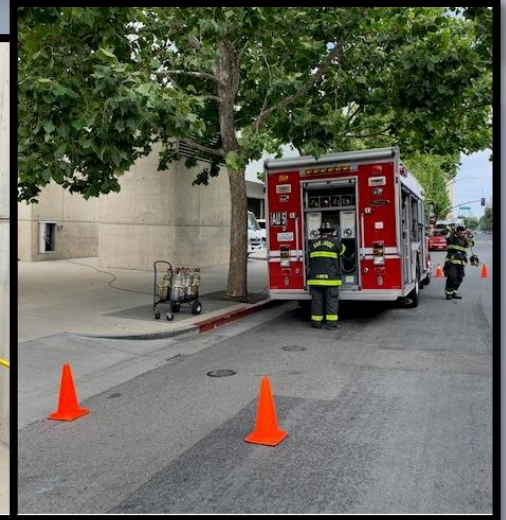
⁴ FSAE were added to section 403.6.1 of the California Building Code (CBC) in 2010 requiring buildings with “an occupied floor more than 120 feet above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access” to provide a minimum of one fire service access elevator. In 2013, section 403.6.1 was modified to require “no fewer than two fire service elevators ... with a capacity of not less than 3500 pounds each.”



Firefighter Breathing Air Systems (FBARS or FARS)



Breathing Air Support





Recap and Next Steps



- Fire Department SOP presume that neither system is present or functional
- FBARS and FSAE are not functionally equal
 - FBARS is a system that provides breathing air supply within a structure to fill SCBA cylinders
 - FSAE vertically lifts/lowers car that carries personnel and equipment, including SCBA cylinders
 - Recommend to City Council to amend Chapter 17.12 of the SJMC, allowing designated FSAE as an alternative to FBARS for high-rise buildings over seventy-five (75') in height.





Questions?

Thank you.

Robert Sapien, Jr., Fire Chief

San José Fire Department
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