



Firefighter Safety Systems in High Rise Buildings Report

Public Safety, Finance, and Strategic Support Committee

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Item: (d) 1



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





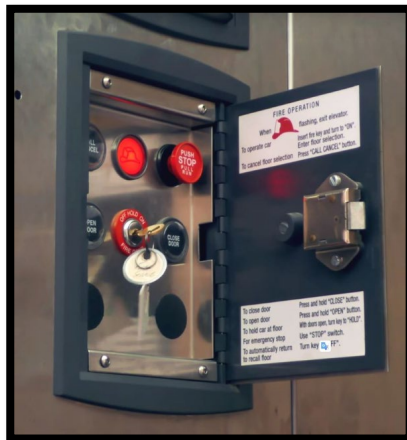
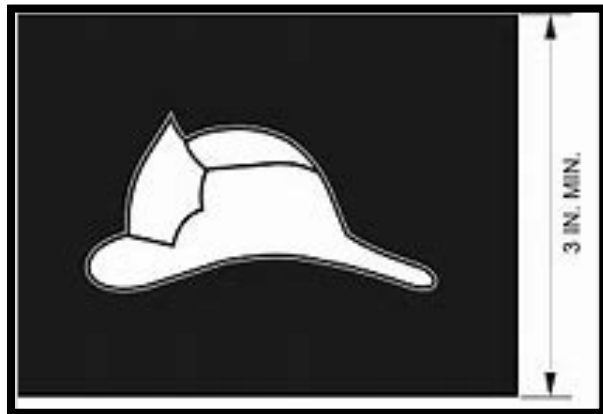
High-Rise Buildings in San José



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



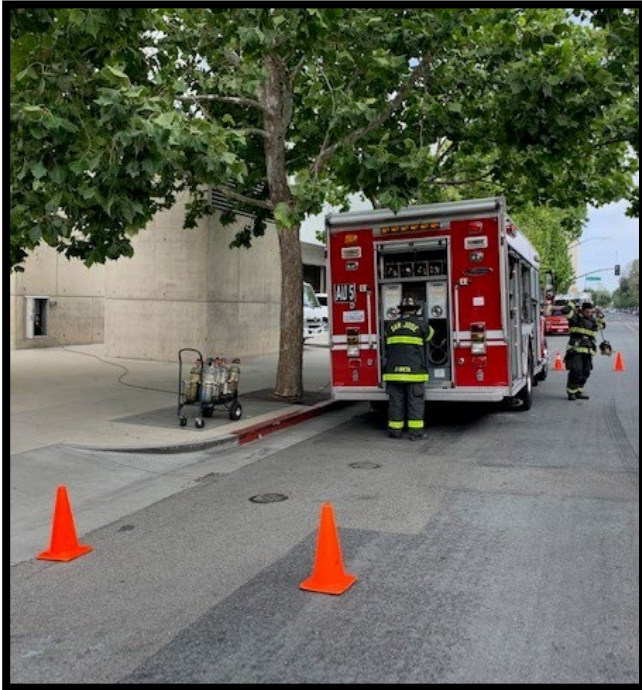
Fire Service Access Elevators (FSAE)



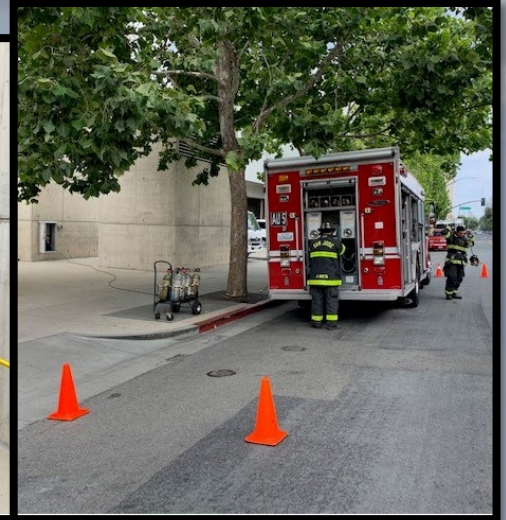
⁴ FSAE were added to section 403.6.1 of the California Building Code (CBC) in 2010 requiring buildings with “an occupied floor more than 120 feet above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access” to provide a minimum of one fire service access elevator. In 2013, section 403.6.1 was modified to 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





FBARS and FSAE Operations



- Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) presume that neither system is present or functional
- FBARS and FSAE are not functionally equal
- FBARS does reduce logistical support needs for breathing air replenishment
- FSAE can support movement of personnel and equipment, including SCBA cylinders





Questions?

Thank you.

Robert Sapien, Jr., Fire Chief

San José Fire Department
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