



FIREFIGHTER AIR COALITION

FIREFIGHTER AIR REPLENISHMENT SYSTEMS (FARS) FACTS

The Need

- Firefighters require two critical products for attacking fires in buildings: air and water.
- Firefighters typically have access to standpipes for delivery of water to the fire attack location.
- Fire departments are becoming more aware of the availability of Firefighter Air Replenishment Systems (FARS) as a delivery system for air. FARS are a standpipe for air permanently installed in a high-rise, large horizontal structure, or tunnel. FARS deliver a safe, instant, endless supply of air replenishment to firefighters inside a structure.
- Remaining on air during the full operation of an interior fire attack greatly reduces the firefighters' exposure to high concentrations or known cancer causing carcinogens. FARS provides the safest means of remaining on air without any interruption of air supply.
- The ICC Fire Code Action Committee proposed a new appendix to the International Fire Code containing design criteria for FARS that was approved by the Code Development Committee and the ICC membership for the 2015 International Fire Code.

Current Conditions

- More than 100 jurisdictions in 17 states have adopted requirements for FARS, more jurisdictions are in the process of adopting such requirements, and even more are currently in the "due diligence" phase of assessing the technology for adoption. Appendix L of the IFC is the preferred option for adopting these requirements.
- NFPA-1 fire code referenced FARS criteria for the first time in the current edition of that code.
- Appendix L has become the de facto standard for FARS installations, acceptance testing, and ongoing maintenance.
- Appendix L contains the highest standard for safety, air quality, and endurance. Systems installed and maintained in accordance with Appendix L have been shown to meet or exceed the air quality of non-FARS breathing air equipment currently in use throughout the fire service.
- The NFPA Research Foundation has contracted with NYU to conduct a study of FARS to "provide guidance on the acceptance and use of these firefighter breathing air replenishment systems." This report, when published, should inform any adjustments needed in the standards for these systems.

Conclusion

- Appendix L is widely used for installation, testing, and maintenance of FARS systems.
- Deleting Appendix L will cause irreparable harm to firefighters who would otherwise have access to a safe, instant, endless supply breathing air.
- No valid justification exists to delete Appendix L from the IFC.

ABOUT THE FIREFIGHTER AIR COALITION

The Firefighter Air Coalition (FAC) promotes firefighter safety through the use of air management best practices, advanced fireground research, and the adoption of codes requiring Firefighter Air Replenishment Systems (FARS). Our members include representatives from the fire service, government, and industry. For more information, visit us at **aircoalition.org**.