Pleasant Valley Fire District

Standard Operating Guidelines

SOG #20 – RESPONSE TO ODOR INVESTIGATION

PURPOSE: To establish a guideline for maximizing firefighter safety when dealing with any odor investigation.

GUIDELINES:

1. All apparatus, personnel and personal vehicles will position no closer than 100 from the dispatched location. The first arriving engine will be the personnel staging area.

2. Two firefighters in full gear with Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) should walk to the location. No radio should be carried with this team. A multi-gas meter will be used to determine if a flammable gas is present.

3. If a flammable gas is present and the Lower Explosive Limit (LEL) is approaching the lower explosive limit, the team should don their SCBA immediately and return to a safe location to plan for scene mitigation.

4 If a flammable gas is present and the LEL is below the explosive limit, the team should communicate with the Officer in Charge (OIC) and attempt to eliminate the source of the supply as soon as possible.

5. If other than a flammable gas is suspected or detected, the team should don the SCBA. They should then return to a safe location to plan for scene mitigation.

6. Upon arrival on the scene if a smoke and/or carbon monoxide detector is sounding in the "alarm" mode, all firefighters should wear full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) with SCBA.

7. Also, remember that a hissing sound or vapor cloud without an odor is no guarantee that the gas is neither flammable and/or toxic.