



## INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

# INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN 2016.14

## Atmospheric Monitoring Situational Awareness Update

### EMERGENCY SERVICES BUREAU

**Issue Date:** November 28, 2016  
**Expiration Date:** N/A  
**Applicability:** All Uniformed Personnel

#### MESSAGE

After a recent review of our Atmospheric Monitoring and Detection program, we have identified an overall lack of compliance related to following the manufacturer's recommendations on docking, powering on and clearing of peak values. As we approach the winter season, it is likely that heater and generator use will increase throughout the County. Our providers have an increased potential to be exposed to carbon monoxide (CO) during this time of year. There are many other gases that could be interpreted as CO by our meters. It is imperative that we care for our meters in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations to ensure they operate as intended in the complex environment we function in on a daily basis.

Crews that respond to a medical incident and enter a structure or environment without a red bag equipped with a Tango CO detector are not able to truly assess the environment and could be placing themselves at risk. This environment could be filled with a colorless odorless gas that is capable of burning. Our ability to detect these gases is not only a safety issue for our personnel, but would offer additional intelligence on the potential patient.

There has been a rise in the request for service regarding our single gas CO Tango units that are attached to the EMS bags because of them "alarming" in the station. Most often, this is attributed to the exposure of cleaning chemicals used to clean and disinfect the patient compartments and storage areas. These chemicals are noted as cross sensitive to the sensor technology used in the detector and should be removed from the area while cleaning is in progress. Stations experiencing issues with a Tango Meter should have the shift officer contact BOTH Barry Griffin ([fd3602@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:fd3602@howardcountymd.gov)) and Tim Daly ([fd3254@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:fd3254@howardcountymd.gov)) via county email to assist with resolving the issue.

Additionally, a specific reminder on the four steps of operation related to the MX4's is referenced below. Step 3 is handled by putting the unit on the docking station. Once the meter is taken off the docking station, it is imperative that Step 4 is completed before the meter is placed in service.

It is also recommended that these monitors be docked after calls where the unit is used and elevated readings are observed.



# Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services

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BEFORE EACH DAY'S USE

### VENTIS™ MX4 Four Steps of Operation

#### 1

#### Turn on the instrument.

Press and hold for 3 seconds, then release for start-up.

The instrument runs through a series of screens until it reaches the Gas Readings screen.

Check the **battery** to ensure it is fully charged.

#### 2

#### Zero the instrument in fresh air.

Press multiple times to get to the Zero Initiate screen.

Press to start the zero process.

The Zero Results screen will indicate **Pass**, displayed with a check mark,

or **Fail**, displayed with an "F" or "P" for each failed or passed sensor.

If the results indicate **Pass** move on to step 3.

If the results indicate **Fail** press to return to the Zero Initiate screen.

Repeat the Zero process.

#### 3

#### Bump test the instrument.

Press until the Bump Test Initiate screen is shown.

Press to initiate the bump test and apply gas.

After a **passed** bump test, the instrument goes into gas monitoring mode.

After a **failed** bump test, the Bump Test Fail screen displays and a low level audio alarm turns on.

NOTE: If the instrument **Fails** the bump test, calibrate the unit.

#### 4

#### Clear the peak readings.

Press until the **Peak** Readings screen is shown.

Press once to clear the peak values.

Press until the instrument returns to the Gas Readings screen.

*The Gas Detection People*

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**INSTRUMENT IS READY TO USE**