

CASPER FIRE-EMS

ENGINE



HAZMAT

The Mysterious PID

“Hey, why don’t we get the PID, it will tell us!”. At station six, we hear this all the time, but just what is the PID? Some think that this mysterious meter is some kind of spaceship technology that was salvaged from the Roswell crash of 1947, well maybe it was, but the fact is; its just a tool in the toolbox.

Before we get started, I just want to stress that you are the meter. What I mean by that is, just like the AED monitors, you are the one that recognizes that the patient needs help (not the monitor).



air sampling in the field

That said, think of the PID as an extension of your brain, or an augmentation to other air monitoring devices. A good example is this: you happen to be monitoring for LEL (Lower Explosive Limit) gasses in a room full of cylinders and you are using

your 4 gas meter. You observe the fact that your meter is showing some kind of elevation indicating that there is a potential explosive atmosphere; but you have no idea where the leak is originating . Enter the PID. With the PID you can “sniff” gaseous products at a Parts Per Million level, allowing the user to sniff exactly where the leak is originating. The PID does not tell you what is leaking or the identification of the chemical. What it does tell you is how many ppm of “something other than breathing air” it is “seeing”.

The PID does have its limitations. The PID meter does not measure acid gasses, any gas outside of the specifications of the lamp rating (our lamp is a 10.5eV) i.e. methane, noble gasses, or the components that make up our breathing air. There is a great training piece at :

http://www.raesystems.com/~raedocs/App_Tech_Notes/App_Notes/AP-000_PID_Training_Outline.pdf

If you have any questions or want more information, please contact us and we can schedule a class.



multiple valves make it difficult to locate the source of the leak

--Station Six
C-Platoon