

"The mouth-piece is inserted between the teeth, and the lips closed around it.

"The eyes are protected by glass goggles, and the nostrils are closed by a spring clip.

"The pressure on the rubber tubes must then be removed.

"The apparatus is now ready for action, the air contained in the bag being sufficient to sustain respiration for from twenty to twenty-five minutes.

Should the wearer feel his breath quickened he will return, but without haste or fear, there being no occasion for either, as the apparatus will certainly sustain him for an additional five minutes in the most suffocating smoke."

A small rope and two whistles are furnished, which are used for the following purposes :

When a man—with the respirator—enters a building filled with smoke the rope or "life-line" is attached to the arm or wrist and is payed out by him as he progresses so as to be used as a guide on returning.

A man is stationed outside, or when practicable, at a safe and convenient place inside of the building, whose duty it is to remain in that position and hold the outside end of the life-line until the return of the man with the respirator; the line being held as tight as practicable without interfering with the movements of the wearer.

"The whistle is a rubber globe with a valve attached and is worked by pressure of the hand."

The following are the signals observed :

2 sounds of the whistle, or pulls or jerks at the life-line from without denote "*come out.*"

3 sounds or pulls denote "*I am returning.*"

4 " " "*all right, or I understand.*"

5 " " "*an additional respirator is required.*"

Rapid or continuous sounding of the whistle, or pulling or jerking of the life-line denotes "*I have fallen*" or "*I am fastened,*" or that immediate assistance of some kind is required.

**Alarm-box  
keys.**

The keys of the fire alarm boxes are inspected periodically when it is ascertained if each is kept in its proper place and if the locks are in good working order; changes as to location are also then made if it is thought that the keys can be lodged in better or safer custody than formerly. Company commanders are held responsible as far as practicable for the safety of alarm-box keys entrusted to private citizens, and it is their duty to see that the keys are always hung up in private houses—near the alarm boxes—in a safe and conspicuous place well above the reach of children.