

## FP2 - TIP 'O THE WEEK 131# SQL CONVERSION

Hi Everyone,

It's been a while since the last Tip came out, and I apologize for the wait. We had a busy summer around here, with several new FirePro modules created (look for an email on our new options soon), several new Departments joining the FirePro family and some actual vacation time for some of us.

It's been a busy time at the Fire Hall as well, with the Department replacing our old BA's with a brand-new set. This transition has probably been easier for me than for long-time members, since I haven't really used the old ones that often. I've also done some scuba diving in the past, so I'm pretty comfortable in breathing apparatus (although the 30-minute tank only lasts me 16 minutes - guess I'm a heavy breather).

The new SCBA's are pretty fancy MSA models. They have better sight lines, a very convenient air-line connector, speakers and even wireless air warning lights. The packs themselves have flashers on them, showing when people are low or out of air and the carbon-composite air bottles are very light and strong.



These are all good things, of course. But what bothers me a bit is the 11! batteries of various sizes that each SCBA requires for all the fancy features to work. Warning lights - battery powered. Digital oxygen gauge - battery powered. Speaker - battery powered. I foresee a sudden rise in the annual departmental battery allowance in the near future. Now I know what the military feels like. "This is Patrol one to base. We're low on 9mm ammo, and AAA batteries..."

Ultimately, I've decided that just because you *can* do something technological, it doesn't mean you *should*. I love the light weight of the new SCBA's, the easy-to connect air line, the ease of adjusting the buckles, and the idea of seeing red flashing lights on a downed teammate is great. But the battery bit is an issue for me - sometimes old and reliable is good. I guess with SCBA's, and the rest of life, really, I'll just have to put up with the extra work that comes with the extra features. You can't have something for nothing, I guess.



### **Welcome New Client**

We would like to enter Taber Emergency Services to the FirePro user's community. Taber Emergency Services covers the Town of Taber, Village of Barnwell and southern Municipal District. Taber is in the southern part of Alberta, between Lethbridge and Medicine Hat.

Taber Emergency Services wears a lot of hats in their community, covering EMS, Fire Suppression, Education, Fire Prevention, Inspection and Investigation and Rescue Services.

Taber is using a fairly comprehensive FirePro package to deal with all these responsibilities, and we're happy we were able to provide a program for them that they can use for everything!



## SQL Conversion

FP 2 is beginning to implement SQL windows in some system windows and new modules. Ultimately, the entire program will be converted into SQL, which changes the way that windows in FP2 operate. We're doing this for a number of reasons, but first and foremost it's because we think that using SQL will allow us to create a better program for everyone.

This tip is intended to give you a basic idea of how SQL windows are different from regular FP2 windows. For more detailed information about SQL windows, please refer to Chapter 3 of the Manual, section 75 (SQL Windows). This section of Chapter 3 will be released in the Manual update in early September.

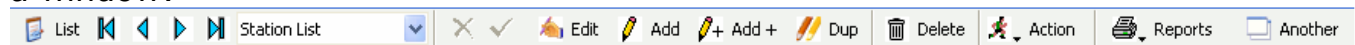
The most obvious change is that SQL windows take a number of functions that were previously accessed by buttons and consolidate them into an SQL Tool Bar, which appears at the top of each SQL-enabled module.



## SQL Tool Bar

The SQL Tool Bar is available in any FirePro Module that is SQL-enabled. It provides a compact and consistent set of buttons and options that replace a number of buttons, menus and list options. For example, all the Add and Edit buttons have been consolidated onto the SQL Tool Bar, as have the Action Menu options, and the various reports.

The following is an example of the basic SQL tool bar, which appears at the top of a window:



### List Button

The List button will not be visible on all SQL windows. It allows you to search through records in that module and create lists of records that can then be sorted, navigated through or printed into reports.

### Navigation Buttons

The Navigation buttons on the SQL Tool Bar replace the Next and Previous buttons to allow you to move through records sequentially.

The navigation buttons allow you to move to the first record, previous record, next record and last record in the currently selected list of records.

## Results List

On windows using the List button, the Results List drop-down will allow you to switch back and forth between the default set of records and the set of records you created using the List Button.

## OK and Cancel Buttons



The "OK" and "Cancel" buttons are now represented by the "X" and "Check" buttons on the SQL Toolbar.

## Edit Buttons

The Edit, Add, Add Plus, Duplicate and Delete button options have been moved to the Tool Bar.

### Edit

Use this command to make any changes to an existing record.

### Add

The Add button opens a blank record ready for your data entry. To save a completed record, click (**OK** ✓) or press the "Enter" key. If you do not want to save it, click (**Cancel** ✗), or press "Esc".

### Add+

The Add+ button allows you to enter multiple records, one after the other. In this mode, when you click **OK** or hit the "Enter" key, FirePro 2 will save the record that you just entered and clear the screen for a new entry.

When you wish to quit **Add +** mode, click **OK**(✓) to save your final record and, when the screen is blank again, click **Cancel**(✗).

### Dup(licate)

This creates a duplicate of the record displayed. In many cases a duplicate can be easily modified to create a new record. After you have made the necessary changes, click **OK** to save the new record.

### Delete

The Delete button will delete the current record. You will always receive a warning pop-up before you delete a record in FirePro. Remember, once you delete a record it cannot be recovered! There are usually options (Retire, usually) which allow you to remove a record from the active lists without deleting it completely.

### Action List

The Action List replaces the Action Menu, and provides a set of command options which are specific to the module that you are working in.

### Reports List

The Reports List accesses all Reports available for both the record you are viewing and, through the Management Reports option, for the entire Module.

## Another Button

One of the other main features of the SQL version of FirePro is the ability to have multiple windows open at the same time. Pressing the "Another" button will open a second copy of the current window, allowing you to view multiple records at the same time, or to sort lists in different ways.



### Quote of the week:

Fire is the test of gold; adversity, of strong men.

**Seneca** - (5 BC - 65 AD), *Epistles*



### Contacting us?

For all tech support, please send the emails to [fp2tech@ingenioussoftware.com](mailto:fp2tech@ingenioussoftware.com)

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You may also call us anytime at 866-352-9495. If for some reason you are unable to reach us, an alternate contact number is: 416-238-5333.

**If you'd like to see previous tips, you can view them online at**

[http://www.ingenioussoftware.com/Tips\\_index.htm](http://www.ingenioussoftware.com/Tips_index.htm)

**To view or download the FirePro 2 User Manual, go to:**

<http://www.ingenioussoftware.com/downloadman.htm>

If you have a general question that you want to ask the other users of FirePro or if you want to share some advice, please feel free to send to the list that the tip comes through to you on –

[fp2townhall@ingenioussoftware.net](mailto:fp2townhall@ingenioussoftware.net) – remember that everyone on the list will get your e-mail, so use this with discretion. When you reply to a message received on the list, your message will go only to "fireprotech" , unless you change the "to" field. So, if you want everyone to see your reply, change the address to [fp2townhall@ingenioussoftware.net](mailto:fp2townhall@ingenioussoftware.net)

**Please let other users of FirePro in your department know about the e-mail list too! They can subscribe to the list by simply sending a blank email to**

[fp2townhall-subscribe@ingenioussoftware.net](mailto:fp2townhall-subscribe@ingenioussoftware.net)

**We welcome all users and appreciate everyone's input.**

Enjoy the week ahead!

Jeremy