

Wearable Sensors to Evaluate Stress and • Enhanced Assisted Rescue Response

Author: João Oliveira, 99865

Supervisor: Dr. Helena Alves



Field Testing

- Field testing involved wearable devices used by firefighter volunteers during real-life operations
- 15 firefighters have participated so far, with plans to expand to 55 volunteers
- Data collection includes ECG signals, movement metrics and daily activity surveys
- Surveys assess effort, fatigue and stress levels to correlate with physiological data
- Controlled tests done at LEIF simulated firefighting scenarios, including hose dragging

and branch burning, to analyze signal behavior under varying conditions



Figure 3: Field tests done at LEIF

Preliminary Difficulties







Figures 4, 5 & 6: Perfect signal examples with a duration of 5 seconds (upper) and 1 minute (center) and an example of a static signal (lower)

- Most data showed signal acceptance rates between 60–95%, demonstrating general reliability
- A loose-fitting device worn by one volunteer caused signal quality to drop below 30%
- The tightness of the device was confirmed as a critical factor for ensuring reliable good-quality signal acquisition and minimizing interference
- There were also low-amplitude signals, with R waves measuring ~200 μV instead of the expected ~1500 μV , possibly due to sweat or skin hair
- A medical expert emphasized that the shape of the PQRST waves is more important than their amplitude for stress detection
- These findings highlight the need for improved device fit and further refinement of analysis methods to ensure reliable results under field conditions



Work Plan

•	2024			2025								
Task	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Bibliographic Research												
Thesis Writing												
Prototype Development												
Field Testing												
Data Processing												
System Implementation												

Next Tasks:

- Analyze signals resulting from LEIF field tests
- Implement HRV and Fourier Transform
- Acquire more data for prototype comparison (e.g. Fabric vs Foam)



