

# Firehouse Software To First Look Pro Synchronizer

Many fire departments who use Firehouse Software® for records management in their station want to use First Look Pro to display pre-plans on the mobile computers in their trucks. The problem is, much of the information in First Look Pro is duplicated in the Firehouse Software Occupancy Module and no one wants to double enter data!

How can you get two completely different database programs to work together? Unfortunately, Firehouse Software does not make it easy to export your data to another program, so we have created the Firehouse Software to First Look Pro Synchronizer just for this purpose. The Synchronizer lets you use the Firehouse Software Occupancy Module for all your data entry and update your First Look Pro database with the click of a button. You can also use the Windows Scheduler to automatically schedule the Synchronizer to run at regular intervals, like every night. This ensures your master First Look Pro database will always be up-to-date with the latest changes.



## What the Synchronizer Can Do

The Synchronizer allows you to enter and modify your building occupancy information in Firehouse Software, Version 5, 6, or 7, and have the data automatically updated in First Look Pro Version 4. You can manually click a button to have the Synchronizer update First Look Pro or use the Windows Scheduler to have it run automatically. You can preview the new records before they are brought into First Look Pro and cancel if it's not the results you wanted. You can also select who, in First Look Pro,

will have ownership over the new records – your main department, or one of your Mutual Aid departments.

## What the Synchronizer Can NOT Do

*The Synchronizer provides for one-way data transfer. Data entered in Firehouse Software will be updated in First Look Pro. Any changes made in First Look Pro will not be transferred back into Firehouse Software. In fact, if any changes are made in First Look Pro to fields that are also included in Firehouse Software, those changes will be overwritten the next time the Synchronizer is run!*

In other words, for the Synchronizer to be used effectively you should *only* enter and modify your data in Firehouse Software – not in First Look Pro. You will want to use First Look Pro as a way of accessing and displaying all your pre-plans on your mobile computers, but do not use it for data entry. The only time you may want to enter information into First Look Pro is if there is not a matching field in Firehouse Software, such as for strategy information. This information can be safely modified in First Look Pro and running the Synchronizer will not affect it. If you are using any of the Firehouse Preplan Information & Alerts (discussed later in this document), be careful to not also enter data into those fields in First Look Pro. For example, if you use preplan codes in Firehouse for information such as utility shut-off locations, this will overwrite any data you enter into First Look Pro in those fields.

## Before You Synchronize

Before you can synchronize your data between Firehouse Software and First Look Pro, you must select which version of Firehouse Software you are using and the Synchronizer must know where the two databases are located. If you have any Mutual Aid departments, you must also select which department in First Look Pro is to take ownership of the new records.

### Select your Firehouse Version

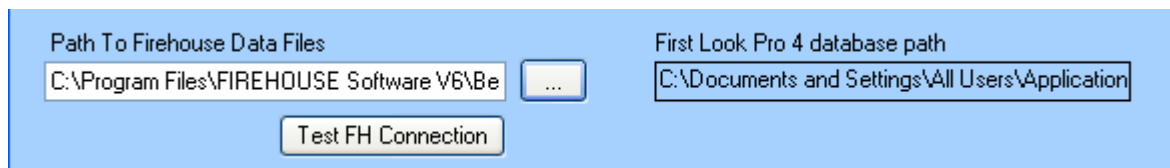
The first step is to tell the Synchronizer which version of Firehouse Software you are using.

Select either Firehouse Standard or Firehouse Enterprise


Firehouse Standard     Firehouse Enterprise

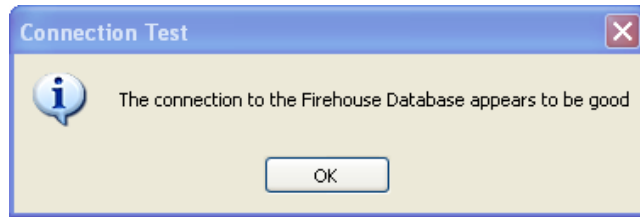
### Establish Connections Between the Databases

The Synchronizer will automatically locate your First Look Pro Version 4 database file and display the path. The next step is to show the Synchronizer where to find your Firehouse Software database file and test the connection between the databases.



The screenshot shows a light blue interface with two text input fields. The first field is labeled "Path To Firehouse Data Files" and contains the text "C:\Program Files\FIREHOUSE Software V6\Be" followed by a browse button "...". The second field is labeled "First Look Pro 4 database path" and contains the text "C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application". Below these fields is a button labeled "Test FH Connection".

- 1) Click the Browse button  beside the Firehouse database path text entry box and browse to the folder that contains your Firehouse Software data. Click the Test Connection button to make sure the Synchronizer is able to connect to your Firehouse data.
- 2) Click the Test Connection button to make sure the Synchronizer is able to connect to your First Look Pro data.
- 3) You should receive this message:
- 4) If the Test Connection fails, use the Browse button again and find the proper location for your Firehouse Software data, then try the connection again until you get a successful connection.



### Select Which Department Is To Have Ownership

First Look Pro’s Mutual Aid feature allows you to have records under multiple department names. These departments “own” those records, meaning only they can make changes to the data. When you use the Synchronizer, you must select which First Look Pro department is to take ownership of the new records being brought in from Firehouse Software. Normally, this will be your own department, unless you are using the Synchronizer to obtain data from a mutual aid department.

- 1) Click the arrow under “Select Ownership for new records” to see a pull down list of all the available First Look Pro departments.
- 2) Click on a department name (normally your own department) to select it. When you synchronize, all the data will be brought into that department’s records in First Look Pro.

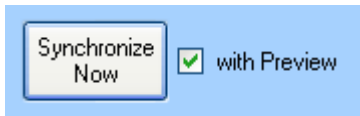


### Synchronize Your Databases

Before you synchronize for the first time, make sure your First Look Pro database has no records, or only records that, for some reason, are not included in your Firehouse Software database. The first time you run the Synchronizer, all of your records in the Firehouse Software Occupancy Module will be imported into First Look Pro. As you use Firehouse Software to make changes to those records, the changes will be incorporated into First Look Pro the next time you run the Synchronizer. Any new records you want to create should be added in the Firehouse Occupancy Module; they will also be brought into First Look Pro the next time you run the Synchronizer.

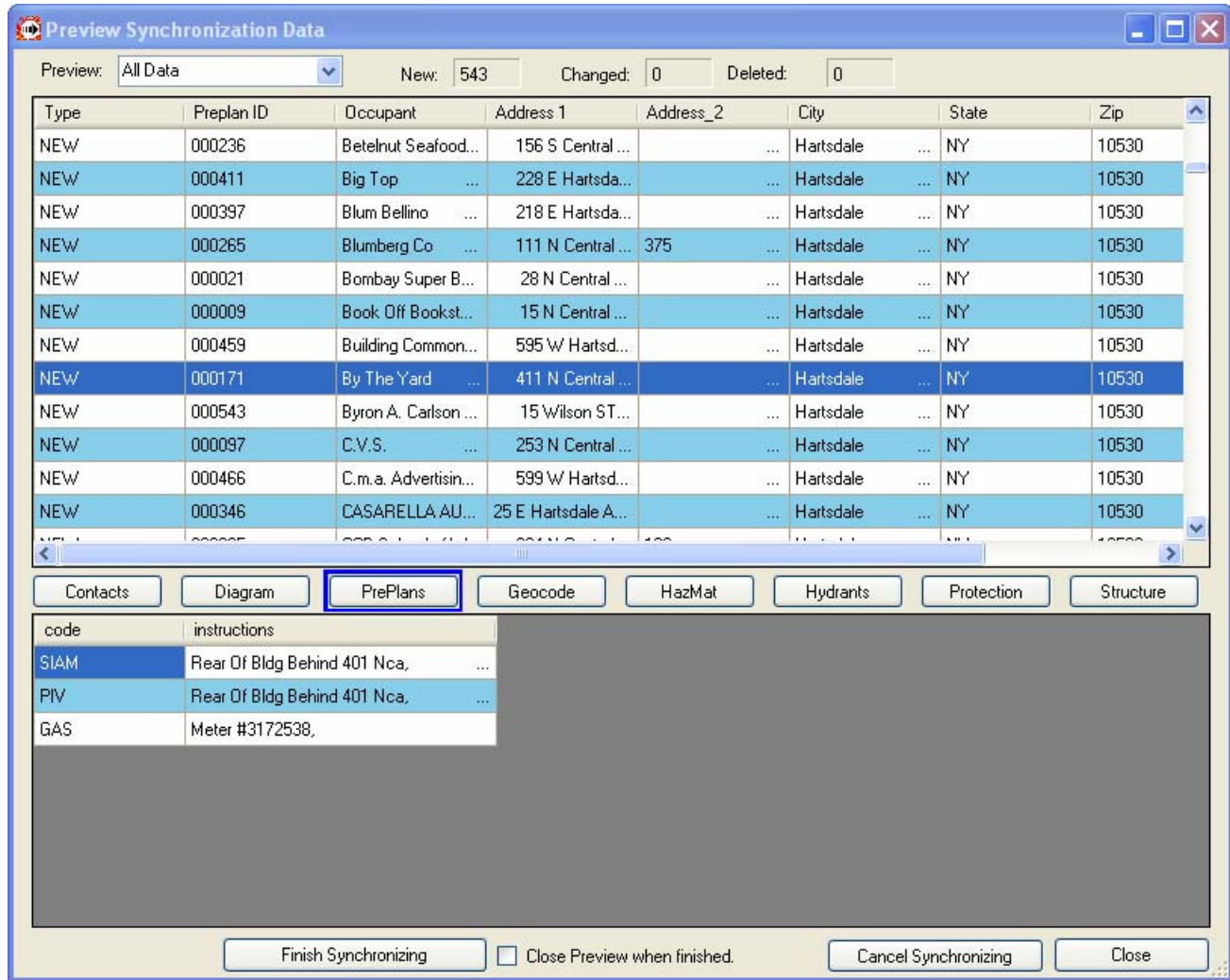
It’s a good idea to close First Look Pro before you synchronize. Otherwise, you may not see all of the changes made in First Look Pro. In other words, the Synchronizer modifies the database “behind the scenes” but the screen will not be refreshed to show all the current data until you close First Look Pro and open it again.

When you are ready to update your First Look Pro database with your Firehouse Software data, just click the Synchronize Now button. You can also select whether to preview the new records before synchronizing.



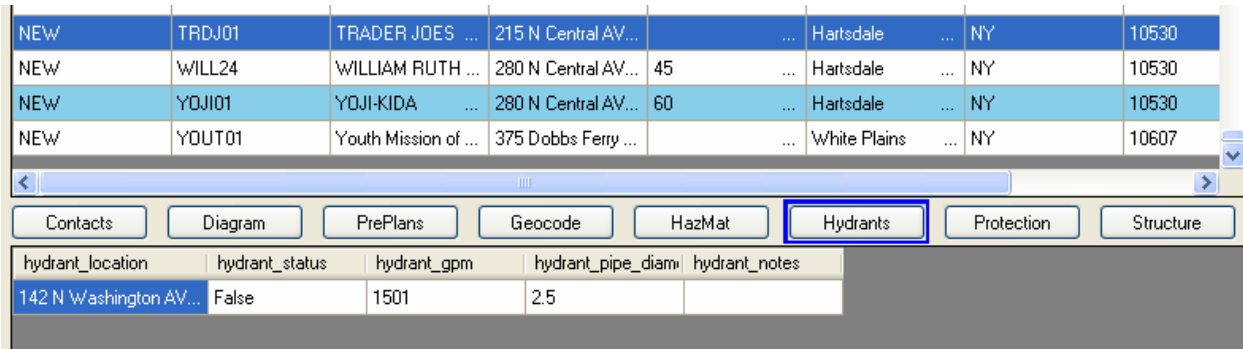
**Using the Preview Window**

If you select the “With Preview” box before performing the synchronization, you will be able to preview any records that are to be brought into First Look Pro. The record information is shown in a table format so you can verify the data.

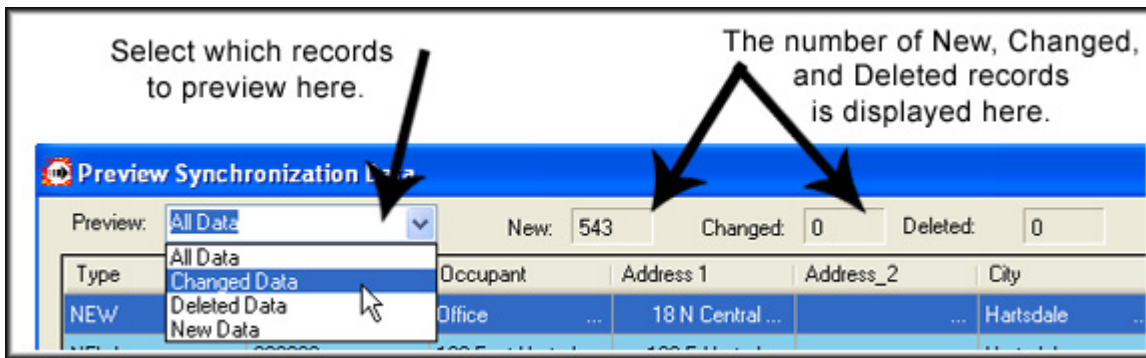


The rows in the upper part of the table represent all the records to be synchronized with First Look Pro. You can sort the records alphabetically by just clicking on any column heading, such as Preplan ID or Occupant. Click once to sort the rows from the smallest, alpha-numerically, to the largest. Click again to reverse the sort order.

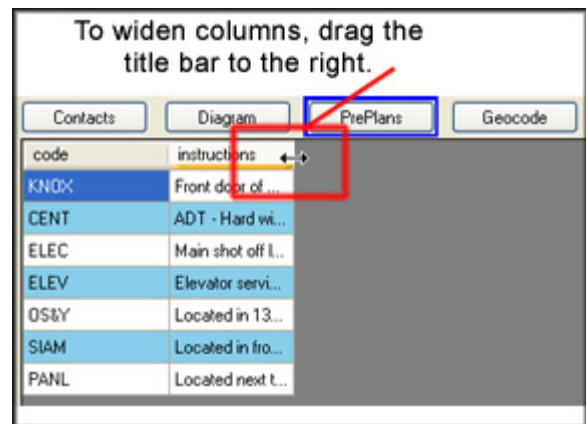
Click on any row to select it and you can see the details for that record in the section below. Use the detail table buttons below to see more of the data for that record. In the example below, Trader Joe’s is selected in the record table and the Hydrants button is clicked to show hydrant details in the space below.



The preview window displays all records that have been added, changed, or deleted in your Firehouse database since the last time you synchronized with First Look Pro. You can choose which records to display from the pull-down list at the upper-left of the preview window. You can select to preview *all* records, only records that have been changed, only deleted records (deleted from Firehouse but still in First Look Pro), or only new records (added in Firehouse but not yet included in First Look Pro). The number of each type of record is also displayed at the top of the preview window.



You can also make any column wider so you can see more of the data. Place your mouse pointer between the names of any two fields (at the top of the columns) and drag the column to the right to widen it.

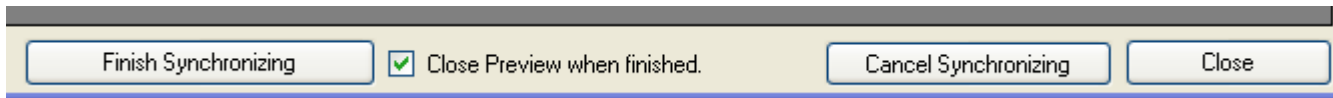


With the columns wider, you can see all of the data in a field, like in the image below:

code	instructions
KNOX	Front door of 130 S. Central , Drexel Heritage
CENT	ADT - Hard wired system
ELEC	Main shot off located in walk in closet behind desk in North East section of store, next to alarm panel.
ELEV	Elevator services 110 SCA only.
OS&Y	Located in 130 SCA (Attached)
SIAM	Located in front of building close to North side.
PANL	Located next to electric panel, walk in closte behind desk in North East section of building.

### Finish Synchronizing

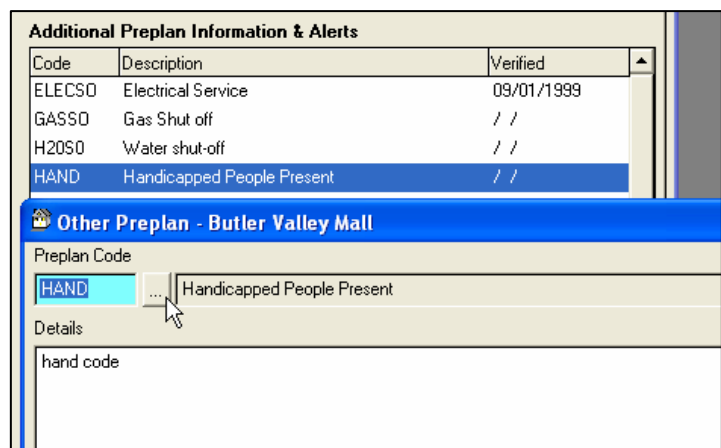
The preview window allows you to preview the data, but you cannot make any changes. If any of the data is not correct, click the Cancel Synchronizing button. Return to Firehouse Software and make your changes there, then run the Synchronizer again.



When you are satisfied that the records are correct, click the Finish Synchronizing button at the lower-left of the preview window. The data will then be inserted into your First Look Pro database.

### Using Additional Preplan Information and Alerts

The Firehouse Occupancy Module gives you the ability to enter unique codes for additional preplan information you may want to have available. In the Firehouse Occupancy Module, browse to one of your building records and click the Additional Records tab. The right side of the dialog box contains a box for a list of Additional Preplan Information & Alerts. Use the Add button to add codes that are appropriate to this occupancy.



This information can be displayed in First Look Pro and synchronized along with your other Firehouse data, *but you must use a particular set of codes*. Only if you use the codes shown in the table below, will the Synchronizer know where to insert the information into the proper fields in First Look Pro.

CODE	DESCRIPTION
ACTV	Active Smoke Control/Ventilation
ALRMPN	Alarm Panel Location
ANUNPN	Annunciator Panel Location
AUXI	Auxiliary Alarm System
BALL	Ball Valve Location
BLIN	Blind or vision impaired occupant
CENT	Central Station Alarm System
COMB	Combustibility Factors
CONT	Emergency Contact Procedures
DEAF	Deaf or hearing impaired occupant
DIRE	Directions
ELECSO or ELEC	Electrical Shut-off
ELEV	Elevator Control System(s)
ESCP	Fire Escape Location
FDC	Fire Dept Connection Location
FLAM	Flame Detectors
GASSO or GAS	Gas shut-off location
H2OSO or H2O	Water shut-off
HAND	Handicapped People Present
HEAT	Heat Detectors
HEXP	High Explosion Hazard
HVAC	HVAC System Information
INCO	Internal Communication System
LOCKBX or KNOX	Lock Box Location
LOWAC	Lowest Access
MAINAC	Main Access
MENT	Mentally handicapped occupant
OXYG	Oxygen Present
PIV	PIV Location
REMO	Remote Station Alarm System
ROOFAC	Roof Access
SECU	Security Systems/Company
SIAM	Siamese Connection Location
STND	Standpipe Location
WCHR	Wheelchair occupant

*Use these codes to enter Additional Preplan Information & Alerts in Firehouse so the data can be brought into First Look Pro properly.*

If you have already entered codes in Firehouse, it is easy to change them to the codes that can be accepted by First Look Pro:

- 1) Select the Additional Records tab in the Occupancy Module.
- 2) Click on any code in the Additional Preplan Information box that you want to change and select Open.
- 3) Click the square button beside the code to bring up a list of all the codes.
- 4) From this list you can select any code and select Edit to change it and you can add new codes.

Using this method you can update your codes to use the codes below. Any records that use the Preplan codes will automatically be updated to have the edited codes.

## Using Windows Scheduler With the Synchronizer

The Synchronizer can be scheduled to run automatically using the Windows Scheduler, found on the Control Panel. You must go through several steps to set up the automatic scheduling, but once it is scheduled, the Synchronizer will run automatically at the appointed time without any user interaction.

Before you can launch the Synchronizer from Windows Scheduler, you must run it at least once manually. Select the Synchronizer settings that you wish to be used and synchronize manually to cause the settings to be saved. These are the settings that will be used when the Synchronizer is run automatically using the Scheduler.

Follow these steps to schedule automatic First Look Pro synchronizing:

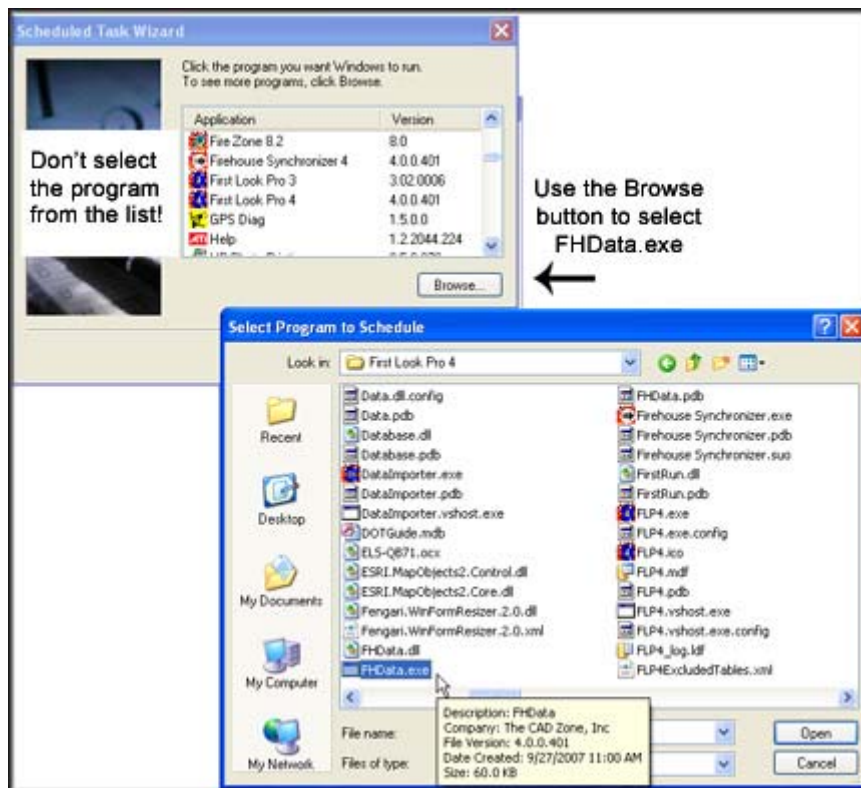
- 1) Select the Windows Start button.
- 2) Select Control Panel
- 3) Select the icon for Scheduled Tasks.
- 4) Select “Add Scheduled Task”



This brings up the Scheduled Task Wizard which allows you to select the program you wish to schedule. Click Next and you should see the screen below:

- 5) Instead of selecting a program from the list, click the Browse button and browse to the folder where you installed the Synchronizer. Select the file called: FHData.exe. By default, this file is located in the folder:

C:\Program Files\CAD Zone\First Look Pro 4\FHData.exe



Follow the prompts in the Wizard to choose the time that you want the Synchronizer to run and enter your Windows login password to authorize scheduling of the task.

When you have entered all the information needed by the scheduler, you will see this dialog box:



Click the Finish button to add this task to your Windows Schedule.

The Synchronizer should then run at the appointed time, with no need for you to manually start it.

### **Attention Windows XP Service Pack 2 Users**

According to Microsoft, you may experience a problem with using the Windows Scheduler if you have Microsoft® Windows® XP, with an early version of Service Pack 2. When you create a new scheduled task by using the Task Scheduler, you may receive the following error message after you click Finish and the task will not run properly:

**The new task has been created, but may not run because the account information could not be set. The specific error is: 0x80070005: Access is denied.  
Try using the Task page Browse button to locate application.**

This is a known “bug” in Windows XP and a fix should be available for it soon. You can go to this web page for more information:

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;EN-US;884573>

### **Need Help? Call Us!**

If you need help using the First Look Pro Synchronizer, contact The CAD Zone:

Technical Support phone: 503-641-0334 M-F 7:30am to 5:00pm Pacific Time

Email: [info@cadzone.com](mailto:info@cadzone.com)

Web site: [www.cadzone.com](http://www.cadzone.com)

First Look Pro, First Look Pro Map, and First Look Pro – Firehouse Synchronizer

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