

## Respiratory Protection Program

### 1.0 Purpose

This policy identifies the components of the Fire Department's Respiratory Protection Program as it relates to SCBA. This policy is intended to satisfy the requirements of NFPA 1404 and NFPA 1500.

### 2.0 Scope

This policy applies to all fire department personnel

### 3.0 Definitions

**3.1 Contamination / Contaminate** – The process by which protective clothing or equipment has been exposed to hazardous materials or biological agents.

**3.2 Fire Department** – The Southwest Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department

**3.3 Immediately Dangerous To Life or Health** – An atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life and would cause irreversible adverse health effects or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

**3.4 SCBA** – An abbreviation for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.

**3.5 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus** – An atmosphere-supplying respirator that supplies a respirable atmosphere to the user from a breathing air source that is independent of the ambient environment and designed to be carried by the user.

**3.6 Technician** – An individual qualified and authorized by the compliant product manufacturer to provide specified care and maintenance to the product and perform inspection, re-pair, and testing beyond the level classified as "user repair"

### 4.0 References

**4.1** NFPA 1500-Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program

**4.2** NFPA 1401-Standard for Fire Service Respiratory Protection Training

**4.3** NFPA 1852-Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

**4.4** [www.firefighterclosecalls.com](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com)

**4.5** Phoenix Regional SOP M.P. 202.05B – Self Contained Breathing Apparatus

### 5.0 Purchasing and Selection

**5.1** Before purchasing new SCBA, a risk assessment shall be performed in accordance with NFPA-1852, section 5.1.1.

**5.2** All SCBA purchased shall be of open circuit positive pressure design and comply with all current applicable standards that exist at time of purchase.

**5.3** The minimum duration of air cylinders shall be 45 minutes.

**5.4** When issuing new SCBA, the department shall provide all users with the instructions provided by the manufacturer on the care, use and maintenance of the SCBA, including any warnings provided by the manufacturer.

**6.0 Respiratory Care and Maintenance**

- 6.1** SCBA shall be inspected monthly, and after each use following the manufacturer specified inspection instructions.
- 6.2** Any SCBA, or SCBA component part that becomes defective, or obsolete, shall be removed from service and documented following the procedure in section 6.0 of the *Equipment Maintenance SOP*.
- 6.3** SCBA or SCBA components removed from service shall be tagged indicating the following:
  - 6.3.1** Date and time SCBA was removed from service
  - 6.3.2** Member removing from service
  - 6.3.3** Reason for removing from service
- 6.4** SCBA and components that are removed from service shall be stored separately from other SCBA and components.
- 6.5** All SCBA, and SCBA components shall be cleaned and disinfected according to the manufacturer's instructions using only agents indicated by the manufacturer.
- 6.6** Face pieces shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each use.
  - 6.6.1** The face piece shall be dried without the use of high heat or putting in direct sunlight.
- 6.7** SCBA shall be flow tested by a qualified technician annually.
- 6.8** There shall be no alterations made to any SCBA equipment.
- 6.9** Only Manufacturer approved equipment shall be added to the SCBA harness, cylinders, or face pieces.

**7.0 Fit Testing**

- 7.1** The face piece seal capability of each member qualified to use RPE shall be verified by quantitative fit testing following procedures set forth in 29 CFR 1910.134, Respiratory protection and ANSI Z88.2, Practices for Respiratory protection in the following conditions.
  - 7.1.1** Annually
  - 7.1.2** Whenever a new type of face piece is issued
- 7.2** Each new member shall be tested before the members are permitted to use SCBA in a hazardous atmosphere.
- 7.3** Only members with a properly fitting face piece shall be permitted to function in a hazardous atmosphere with SCBA.
- 7.4** Records of face piece fit tests shall include the following information
  - 7.4.1** Date of test
  - 7.4.2** Name of member tested
  - 7.4.3** Type of fit test performed
  - 7.4.4** Specific make and model of face pieces tested
  - 7.4.5** Pass/Fail results of the tests
  - 7.4.6** Name of member performing test
- 7.5** If a satisfactory fit cannot be achieved for an individual with the department used face piece, the department shall work with the manufacturer of the face piece to find a design that fits satisfactory.
- 7.6** Fit testing shall be conducted by members of the Fire Departments Bureau of Training

**8.0 SCBA Usage**

- 8.1** Personnel shall don SCBA in the following scenarios:
  - 8.1.1** The atmosphere is hazardous
  - 8.1.2** The atmosphere is suspected of being hazardous
  - 8.1.3** The atmosphere may rapidly become hazardous
  - 8.1.4** In any oxygen deficient atmosphere
  - 8.1.5** When instructed to do so by an officer
    - 8.1.5.1** The above examples include but are not limited to:
      - 8.1.5.1.1** Any active fire area
      - 8.1.5.1.2** Directly above an active fire area
      - 8.1.5.1.3** A potential explosion or fire area, including gas leaks and fuel spills.
      - 8.1.5.1.4** Vehicle Fires
      - 8.1.5.1.5** Dumpster Fires
      - 8.1.5.1.6** Toxic products present, or suspected to be present
- 8.2** Personnel responding to a potential fire incident shall have SCBA strapped on and ready for use en route to the incident when practical
  - 8.2.1** Face pieces shall not be donned until exiting the apparatus.
- 8.3** SCBA shall not be worn when a member has any conditions that prevent a good face seal.
- 8.4** Nothing shall be allowed to enter or pass through the area where the respiratory protection face piece is designed to seal with the face, regardless of the specific fitting test measurement that can be obtained.
- 8.5** Members with facial hair that comes between the sealing surface of the face piece and the face shall not be permitted to wear SCBA at emergency incidents or in a hazardous or potentially hazardous atmosphere.
  - 8.5.1** Individual Members shall be accountable for compliance with this requirement.
- 8.6** When a member must wear spectacles while using SCBA, the face piece shall be fitted with spectacles in such a manner that they do not interfere with the face piece-to-face seal.
  - 8.6.1** Spectacles with any strap or temple bars that pass through the face piece-to-face seal area are prohibited.
- 8.7** The SCBA face piece and head harness with straps shall be worn under the protective hoods.
- 8.8** Members using SCBA shall not compromise the protective integrity of the SCBA for any reason when operating in IDLH, potentially IDLH, or unknown atmospheres by removing the face piece or disconnecting any portion of the SCBA that would allow the ambient atmosphere to be breathed.

**9.0 SCBA Cylinders**

- 9.1** SCBA shall be hydrostatically tested as required by the manufacturers and applicable government agencies.
- 9.2** In-Service SCBA cylinders shall be stored fully charged.
- 9.3** In-Service SCBA cylinders shall be inspected weekly, monthly, prior to filling, and after each use, according to NIOSH requirements, CGA standards, and manufactures' recommendations.
- 9.4** Cylinders shall be filled with breathing air that meets the requirements of NFPA 1989, Standard on Breathing Air Quality for Emergency Services Respiratory Protection.
- 9.5** Cylinders shall be removed from service and retired at the end of their manufacturer specified service life following.
  - 9.5.1** Cylinders reaching their retirement age shall be retired following procedure in section 14.0 of this guideline.

**10.0 Personal Alert Safety System (PASS)**

- 10.1** PASS devices shall meet the requirements of NFPA 1982, Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS).
- 10.2** Each SCBA will be provided with an integrated pass device that operates upon activating the SCBA.
- 10.3** Each PASS device shall be tested at least weekly and prior to each use and shall be maintained in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.

**11.0 Training**

- 11.1** Current SCBA used by the department shall be made available to members for any training involving SCBA
  - 11.1.1** Reserve cylinders shall be made available for use for training exercises.
- 11.2** Members shall be qualified annually in the use of department SCBA

**12.0 Initial SCBA user qualification**

- 12.1** In order to be qualified by the Fire Department to use SCBA in an IDLH environment, the member must have completed the following:
  - 12.1.1** State accredited entry level fire fighter program
  - 12.1.2** State accredited Structural Burn Session
  - 12.1.3** Fit Testing
  - 12.1.4** Department PPE inspection

**13.0 Annual Re Qualification**

**13.1** In order to remain qualified to use SCBA, members must complete annually the following:

**13.1.1** Fit Testing

**13.1.2** Department PPE inspection

**13.1.3** Fire Department annual burn

**13.1.4** A State accredited Structural Burn Session may be substituted

**13.1.5** "60 Second Drill"

**13.1.6** Simulated Emergency evaluation as determined by the Training Bureau

**14.0 Retirement**

**14.1** Retired SCBA that is no longer serviceable shall be destroyed or altered in a manner assuring that they are not used for respiratory protection and shall be rendered unable to hold pressure.

**15.0 Contaminated SCBA**

**15.1** SCBA that is contaminated, or suspected of being contaminated shall be tagged as out of service and segregated from other equipment and personnel.

**15.1.1** Tags shall include incident location and incident number, as well as known and suspected contaminants.

**15.2** SCBA manufacturer shall be contacted to determine if any additional special procedures can be used to decontaminate the SCBA

**15.3** Contaminated SCBA or components that have been contaminated beyond the ability to be decontaminated so the SCBA or components can be returned to service, the SCBA or component shall be disposed of following section 14.1 of this procedure.

**15.3.1** Contaminated SCBA being disposed of shall be segregated from other equipment and personnel and disposed in a manner consistent with the type of contamination and in regards to any governmental regulations.

**16.0 SCBA Records**

**16.1** All records pertaining to all sections of this policy shall be maintained using the department's firehouse reporting software.

**16.2** All SCBAs, cylinders, parts, and components will be identified and tracked using the firehouse software from initial receipt of the fire department until removed from possession and control of the department.

**Authorization:**

Fire Chief (signature)

02/04/2013

Date