

Springdale Fire Department

Policy & Procedures Manual

Volume 2 – Operations

Section 201 – Personnel Safety

201.4 – Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

Personnel shall wear and use SCBA whenever in a hazardous atmosphere or when a hazardous atmosphere could quickly become present. These types of atmospheres include but are not limited to:

- Any type of structure fire.
- Exterior fires involving known or unknown inhalation hazards including vehicles, dumpsters, landfills, tires, petroleum products, flammable solids, flammable liquids, and any type of hazardous materials.
- Potentially explosive atmospheres such as flammable or combustible gas or flammable liquids spills.
- Any confined space.
- Any atmosphere suspected to be oxygen deficient or contaminated with toxic or superheated gasses.
- Any atmosphere that could become oxygen deficient or toxic without warning.

Personnel operating in the Hot Zone shall continue to utilize SCBA until the Incident Commander, Safety Officer or Division Supervisor assigned to that area declares the area safe to allow personnel to remove SCBA. Under no circumstances shall personnel operate in atmospheres metered at greater than 100 ppm carbon monoxide without SCBA.

Inspection and Maintenance

Company Officers are responsible to ensure that all SCBA and spare cylinders are inspected daily and after each use. Inspection shall include:

- Visual inspection for general operational readiness, cleanliness, damage or deterioration.
- Cylinder “FULL” .
- Operation of the VIBRALERT.
- Operation of the HEADS-UP DISPLAY (battery check).
- Operation of the PASS DEVICE, manual activation and automatic.
- SCBA and Cylinders are firmly locked in the mounting retention assembly.

Breathing apparatus needing maintenance shall be removed from service and “RED TAGGED” with a description of the deficiency. A service request shall be entered into the “Firehouse” Software System. The SCBA shall be delivered to the Station 1 SCBA service area (mezzanine).

Only individuals trained and authorized to perform such work will perform repairs, adjustments, and replacement of parts on SCBA.

Fit Testing, Familiarization, and Training

All firefighting personnel shall be fit tested for the proper size of SCBA mask annually and will be issued a mask of the appropriate size. Facial hair shall not be allowed at areas where the SCBA face piece is designed to seal with the skins surfaces around the face. Such facial hair is considered unsafe.

All personnel shall maintain familiarization with the SCBA equipment used by the department. Company Officers shall provide training to assigned personnel encompassing the following objectives semi annually.

- Correct inspection of and cleaning of SCBA.
- Correct and efficient donning of SCBA.
- Correct and safe refilling of SCBA cylinders.
- Proper procedures to follow in the event of a SCBA Emergency.

This training should be in the form of practical evolutions with all personnel wearing SCBA and breathing from the SCBA. Personnel shall be required to demonstrate the ability to work in an SCBA (“on air”) comfortably.

The evolutions should include personnel (while in SCBA) operating under simulated emergency conditions that consist of an SCBA emergency in a hazardous atmosphere. Personnel shall be required to appropriately notify other personnel of a malfunctioning SCBA, and to effectively and appropriately respond to the following possible malfunctions:

- Failed Regulator (effectively utilizing the emergency bypass valve).
- No Air (effectively performing buddy breathing techniques).
- Low Air (effectively performing air conservation measures).