

SELF -CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

DATE APPROVED: MAY 2010

I. Scope

This standard establishes guidelines for the inspection and maintenance of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

- A. Provide a reasonable degree of assurance that an in-service SCBA will function properly.
- B. Require that any SCBA's that do not function properly be removed from service and repaired.

II. General

- A. All SCBA equipment shall comply with the provisions of the edition of NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Service* that was in effect at the time that the equipment was purchased.
- B. SCBA equipment shall also comply with the applicable rules, regulations, and standards established by other appropriate agencies (OSHA).

III. Inspection

SCBA equipment shall be inspected periodically to determine its readiness for use and to discover and repair any damage or excessive wear sustained by the unit.

The frequency of inspection is as follows:

- A. After each use:
 1. After each use, each SCBA shall be inspected for the following:
 - a. Low or empty cylinder: Cylinders should be cleaned, low or empty cylinders should be refilled, or replaced with full ones.
 - b. Components and face pieces: Shall be cleaned, checked for excessive wear or damage, sanitized, and checked for proper function.
 - c. Anytime an SCBA has been used in a contaminated atmosphere, the unit shall be completely decontaminated prior to being returned to service.
- B. Inspection:
 1. Each piece of SCBA equipment assigned to an apparatus shall be inspected monthly by the SCBA Officer (John Jennings)
 2. The inspection shall be made to ensure that the SCBA is fully charged, clean, free of damage, and fully operational.
 3. Cleaning, refilling cylinder's or minor repair shall be done by any member who has been trained on the use of our SCBA's as needed.
 4. Any unit showing damage or that does not function properly shall be removed from service and tagged with a description of the defect. The defects shall be forwarded to the SCBA Officer.

- C. Annual inspection:
1. All SCBA's shall be inspected and serviced every twelve months by an authorized repair facility.
 2. The inspection and servicing shall include the following:
 - a. Disassembly and cleaning of the regulator and other major components, such as the low-air alarm, face-piece, etc.
 - b. Replacement of all worn parts.
 - c. Reassembly of the SCBA and testing for proper function.
 - d. Function test shall include a flow test.

IV. Breathing Air Supplies

- A. All breathing air produced for use in an SCBA shall comply with the testing and quality requirements of the Compressed Gas Association G7.1 Commodity Specifications for Air, for Grade D Air.
- B. The breathing air that is produced by the department's compressors meets the air quality standards for SCBA equipment.
- C. The SCBA officer shall ensure that all fire suppression personnel are capable of properly operating our breathing air compressor and system.
- F. Prior to filling a cylinder, personnel shall visually inspect all cylinders to ensure that none are damaged or defective and that they are within the current hydrostatic test date. Defective or out-of-date cylinders shall not be filled and shall be removed from service. (NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*, 5-3.7.3 requires that cylinders be hydrostatically tested within the applicable periods specified by the manufacturer. For example, if a manufacturer required a cylinder to be tested every five years and the last test date on the cylinder is older than five years, the cylinder cannot be filled
- G. All cylinders shall be refilled in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer.
- H. Breathing air compressors shall not be operated in a contaminated atmosphere. Prior to operation, personnel shall ensure that the intake area is free of obvious contaminants.

V. Records

- A. The SCBA officer shall ensure that the following records are kept:
 1. A complete inventory of all SCBA units, cylinders, cascades, fill stations, special tools, spare parts, and related equipment.
 2. The records shall include inventory and serial numbers, date of purchase, vendor, manufacturer, maintenance and repair history, history of parts replacement, upgrades, and performance tests.
 3. Individual records shall be kept for each cylinder. The records shall include inventory or serial numbers, date of purchase, vendor, manufacturer, hydrostatic test dates, and a history of inspection and repair.

4. Individual maintenance and repair records shall be kept for each breathing air compressor, fill station, and any equipment used to produce or store breathing air.
- B. The SCBA officer shall also keep a permanent file of all air quality tests.

VI. Responsibilities

- A. The SCBA officer shall be responsible for the management and oversight of the SCBA inspection and maintenance program, including all cascade systems, and breathing air compressors. The SCBA officer shall ensure the timely repair of any defective piece of SCBA equipment.
- C. Every person trained to fire suppression shall be responsible for knowing how to use and care for the SCBA's assigned to our apparatus.
- D. It is the duty of each individual to promptly report and correct any deficiencies found with any piece of SCBA equipment. If the equipment cannot immediately be repaired, the equipment shall be taken out of service.