

## Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) SOP's

1. Members guidelines for the use of SCBA:
  - a. Members must be 18 years of age to wear an SCBA.
  - b. Members will have no more than 1 days beard growth to wear an SCBA.
  - c. Members must be qualified by the SCBA Officer to wear an SCBA.
  - d. Members will be responsible for the SCBA for the duration of the fire assignment.
  - e. SCBA will be worn on all fire assignments, with the exception of brush or grass fires.
  - f. SCBA will be worn during all overhaul operations.
  - g. After returning from incidents using SCBA, wearer must fill out SCBA user sheet and turn into officer fill out report.
2. Use of wearing the SCBA:
  - a. When preparing to don an SCBA the firefighter should visually check to make sure everything is in working order and make sure the cylinder has at least 3,000 PSI in it.
  - b. Check the high pressure coupler to ensure tightness.
  - c. Don the SCBA by pulling the shoulder tight and buckle and tighten the waist belt. Place the excess waist strap in your bunker coat pocket.
3. Use of the SCBA:
  - a. Before entering a smoke filled environment turn on the SCBA cylinder all the way. This will ensure a proper packing seal to prevent a leak.
  - b. Check the empty/full gauge on the shoulder strap to ensure the system has been charged with air.
  - c. Don the mask and ensure a good deal by placing your hand over the regulator hole in the mask and breathe in. If air leaks in, you do not have a good seal try to reset your mask.
  - d. When you are ready to enter the fire situation hook up the regulator and breathe in sharply this will start the system's airflow.
  - e. Always enter a fire situation with a partner and always stay with that partner for the duration of the fire call unless otherwise ordered by an officer.
  - f. If one firefighter has to leave the fire area always leave with your partner unless otherwise ordered by an officer.
  - g. If you have a problem with your SCBA, you and your partner are to exit the area immediately.
  - h. No more than two bottles of air should be used by any one firefighter without a rest period.
4. Emergency Procedure:
  - a. Although all of our SCBA's are positive pressure, if you develop a smoke leak through your mask, you can open your red purge valve on your low pressure mask regulator to give you a constant flow of air. Then exit the area immediately.

- b. Should you run out of air in a smoke filled environment you should start buddy breathing with your partner immediately and exit the area immediately.
- 5. After using the SCBA:
  - a. Remove the SCBA and place it on a tarp at a central location.
  - b. Return all straps to their normal open position.
  - c. Turn off the SCBA bottle and remove from the bracket and have the bottle filled if possible or if otherwise ordered by an Officer.
  - d. If the bottle was filled, place the SCBA back in service and put back on the apparatus or in a SCBA filled staging area ready to be redonned.
- 6. Cleaning of the SCBA components after a fire:
  - a. Remove the bottle and mask from the harness assembly.
  - b. Clean the mask in a bucket of warm soapy water and rinse in a bucket of clean clear water.
  - c. Towel dry the mask and make sure all excess water has been dried from the mask.
  - d. Wipe down the bottle and harness assembly with warm soapy water and towel dry.
  - e. Put the bottle back in the harness, making sure the bottle is full, and hook the mask back to the regulator.
  - f. Put the SCBA back on the truck in the properly numbered bracket.
  - g. Make sure all straps have been opened and are ready for the next call.

Remember when using an SCBA you are in a life and death situation. If you take the time to think and take the time to place your SCBA back in working order and ready to go, the life you may be saving may be your own.