

ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE

Rules, Policies, and Guidelines

3500.025

SCBA Use

Implemented: 12/21/12

Revised:

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Patrick T. Grace, Fire Chief

PURPOSE:

To protect and ensure the health and safety of ECFR member's while operating at emergency incidents, when situations require the use of a Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

OBJECTIVE:

To ensure that policies and procedures are in place for effective and safe operations at emergency incidents with regard to respiratory protection. This SOG is to comply with requirements outlined in OSHA 29CFR1910.120 and 29CFR1910.134.

SCOPE:

It is the policy of Escambia County Fire Rescue that all certified personnel who are expected to respond and function in areas of atmospheric contamination, shall be equipped with self-contained breathing apparatus (S.C.B.A.) and trained in its proper use and maintenance.

PROCEDURE

Personnel shall achieve a NON-LEAKING face-piece to skin seal **WITH THE MASK**. All personnel with comply with the Grooming Policy (1110.090). Facial hair shall not be allowed at points where the S.C.B.A. face-piece is designed to seal with the face. **ALL PERSONNEL SHALL BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THIS REQUIREMENT.**

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus shall be used by all personnel operating:

- In a contaminated atmosphere
- In an atmosphere which may suddenly become contaminated
- In an atmosphere which is oxygen deficient
- In an atmosphere which is suspected of being contaminated or oxygen deficient

This includes all personnel operating:

- In an active fire area.
- Directly above an active fire area.
- In a potential explosion or fire area, including gas leaks and fuel spills.

Where products of combustion are visible in the atmosphere, including vehicle fires and dumpster fires-where invisible contaminants are suspected to be present (i.e. Carbon Monoxide during overhaul).

- Where toxic products are present, suspected to be present, or may be released without warning.
- In any confined space which has not been tested to establish respiratory safety.

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When available the I.C. may request the use of air monitoring equipment to establish the continued use of the SCBA.

Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

A self-contained breathing apparatus will be used when recommended as a safe level of respiratory protection. Premature removal of S.C.B.A. must be avoided at all times. This is particularly significant during overhaul when smoldering materials may produce increased quantities of carbon monoxide and other toxic products. In these cases S.C.B.A. must be used or the atmosphere must be changed. If there is any doubt about respiratory safety, S.C.B.A. use shall be maintained until the atmosphere is established to be safe by testing. Safety Sector personnel shall be responsible for this determination. This is required in complex situations, particularly when toxic materials may be involved.

Fit Test

All members and employees of ECFR will be evaluated on a yearly basis by the use of a quantitative evaluation to ensure the proper fit of a respirator on an individual as per the requirements of 29CFR1910.134.

Medical Evaluation

Escambia County shall provide a medical evaluation to determine the member's ability to use a SCBA, before the member is fit tested or required to use the SCBA in the workplace.

Training

All personnel will receive yearly training on all types of respiratory protection that is available for use. This training will include donning and doffing as well as general maintenance guidelines. An evaluation of all personnel in the use of the S.C.B.A. shall be conducted annually. Each member shall be able to demonstrate a high level of proficiency and compatibility with the S.C.B.A. under conditions which simulate those expected as a job requirement. Each member shall also demonstrate an effective facepiece to skin seal of the S.C.B.A. facepiece.

Maintenance

Each member shall be accountable and shall check the condition of the S.C.B.A. at the beginning of each shift, after each use, and at any other time it may be necessary to render the equipment in a ready state of condition. Each member shall be accountable for their personal facepiece.

If the S.C.B.A. is found to be functioning improperly, it shall be taken out of service, tagged, reported, and replaced immediately.

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Definitions

Air-Purifying Respirator - A respirator with an air-purifying filter, cartridge, or canister that removes specific air contaminants by passing ambient air through the air-purifying element.

Filtering Facepiece (Dust Mask) - A negative pressure particulate respirator with a filter as an integral part of the facepiece or with the entire facepiece composed of the filtering medium.

Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR) - An air-purifying respirator that uses a blower to force the ambient air through air-purifying elements to the inlet covering.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) - An atmosphere-supplying respirator for which the breathing air source is designed to be carried by the user.

Supplied-Air Respirator (SAR) or Airline Respirator - An atmosphere-supplying respirator for which the source of breathing air is not designed to be carried by the user.

Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) - An atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

Qualitative Fit Test (QLFT) - A pass/fail fit test to assess the adequacy of respirator fit that relies on the individual's response to the test agent.

Quantitative Fit Test (QNFT) - An assessment of the adequacy of respirator fit by numerically measuring the amount of leakage into the respirator.

Service Life - The period of time that a respirator; filter or sorbent; or other respiratory equipment provides adequate protection to the wearer.

User Seal Check - An action conducted by the respirator user to determine if the respirator is properly seated to the face.