

## SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS

### Purpose:

It is the policy of this District that all personnel expected or likely to respond to, and function in, areas defined as “immediately dangerous to life and health” (IDLH), shall be equipped with, and trained in the proper use and maintenance of self-contained breathing apparatus.

### General:

- A. Shift personnel shall check their SCBA and face piece and place them in a “ready” condition at the beginning of each shift and after each use or at any other time it may be necessary to render the equipment in a ready state of condition.
- B. Personnel operating in SCBAs shall operate in teams of two or more and be equipped with a portable radio.
- C. Personnel must be in compliance with the grooming requirements. Under no circumstances shall any hair interfere with any of the protective equipment.
- D. The use of spectacles that pass through the face piece-to-face seal shall be prohibited. The use of soft contacts will be permitted for personnel who have documented long term usage. Hard contact lenses are prohibited.
- E. Any head covering that passes between the sealing surface of the SCBA face piece or interferes with the face piece shall be prohibited. All hoods shall be worn over the SCBA face piece and head harness.

### “Ready” State of Condition for SCBA:

- A. Check the gauge on the air cylinder. The gauge should have 4300 PSI minimum (4300 to 4500 is acceptable).
- B. Check the cylinder for visible damage
- C. OPEN the cylinder valve fully to pressurize the system, and then CLOSE the cylinder valve. Look through the face piece lens at the LED panel. All LED’s must illuminate at the top of the receiver. The receiver must go through all LED light patterns when the system is pressurized.
  - a. Four green LED’s for 20 seconds, steady ON
  - b. Three green LED’s for 20 seconds, steady ON
  - c. Two yellow LED’s for 30 seconds, FLASHING
  - d. One red LED FLASHING
  - e. Yellow LED for LOW BATTERY
- D. Open the cylinder valve fully.
- E. The PASS function uses red and green light emitting diodes (LED’s) to display its status visually:

- a. GREEN LED's start to flash when the cylinder valve is opened and shows that the device is operational.
- b. RED LED's flash slowly when the device is in pre-alarm; LED's flash rapidly when the device is in full alarm.
- F. Check hoses and couplings for wear and leaks. (A faulty or missing "O" ring on the coupling nut to the cylinder will cause air leaks.) The assembly coupling nut should be hand tight to the bottle valve outlet. Check the Quick-fill hose for damage, wear and protective dust covers.
- G. Check harness for wear.
- H. Check your face piece for cracks, tears and wear. Check the netting and head traps for elasticity and wear.
- I. Don SCBA and adjust straps. Remember to secure the WAIST straps prior to the SHOULDER straps as the SCBA is designed to rest on the wearers hips.
- J. Put your face piece on and secure head straps without the mask mounted regulator (MMR) attached. Place your hand over the exhalation valve, inhale sharply and check for proper seal: Remove hand from the exhalation valve and hold the mask firmly to your face, inhale and exhale sharply to check the exhalation valve for proper opening and closing.
- K. Connect the MMR to the mask. Open the red bypass valve counter clockwise and check the operation.
- L. Push the two slide buttons on the MMR and remove from the mask.
- M. Turn the cylinder valve off.
- N. Crack the bypass valve slowly to bleed off pressure until the HUD system or the ICM gauge drops below 1175 psig. The HUD system will illuminate; the ICM gauge and the audilarm assembly will sound. The HUD display will automatically turn off after 60 seconds. When the pressure falls below 200 PSI, turn the ICM off by pressing the yellow reset button TWICE.
- O. Remove the SCBA and place the mask in the protective pouch (shift personnel may leave their MMR attached during the shift).
- P. Store the SCBA in the "ready" condition with the MMR attached to the bracket on the belt or the mask.

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting:**

- A. The SCBA and Face piece shall be thoroughly cleaned after each use and disinfected as needed. *Cleaning and disinfecting of SCBA components shall be performed using mild soap, rinsing thoroughly, submerging in a germicide solution, and air dry or wipe with a clean cloth.*
- B. Keep the face piece clean and clear of foreign particles or they will be blown into the eyes when the regulator is turned on.
- C. Alcohol should not be used to disinfect the face piece as it will damage rubber parts.

### **Service and Repair:**

If an SCBA or face piece is found to be functioning improperly, it shall be taken out of service, an equipment repair form completed and attached, and placed on the SCBA spare bottle rack. The Shift Officer shall notify the person assigned to oversee the SCBA program that an SCBA and/or face piece has been taken out of service and in need of repair.

**Use:**

- A. All personnel shall utilize (breathe air from) the provided SCBA when encountering emergencies in the following situations:
  - a. Above ground level
  - b. Below ground level
  - c. Contaminated atmosphere
  - d. Situations where it is likely that the atmosphere may become contaminated.
- B. Some specific situations requiring the use of self-contained breathing apparatus include:
  - a. Vertical ventilation and/or roof operations over an involved building.
  - b. Car fires/dumpster fires.
  - c. Investigation of hazardous materials incidents and fire alarm activations.
  - d. Confined space entries.
  - e. Overhaul.
- C. Resist the tendency to prematurely remove breathing apparatus during fire or overhaul situations. Be aware of the respiratory hazards which exist in ordinary as well as the extraordinary fire situations. It is generally true that carbon monoxide and cyanide levels increase during overhaul due to the incomplete combustion of smoldering materials.
- D. Do not remove your SCBA until the atmosphere has been determined to be safe to operate utilizing multi-gas meters. Either use your SCBA or change the atmosphere.
- E. The determination as to removal of breathing apparatus will be made by company officers in routine situations. In complex situations, particularly when toxic materials are involved, the Incident Commander will make this determination.