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| ***REPLACE WITH YOUR MASTHEAD*** |
| **VFIS logo black JPG** | **SOG Title:** |
| **SOG Number:** |
| **Original Date:** | **Revision Date:** |
| **ABC Fire Department General Operating Guideline** |

**Respiratory Protection (SCBA)**

***This is a sample of a standard operating guideline (SOG) on this topic. You should review the content, modify as appropriate for your organization, have it reviewed by your leadership team and if appropriate your legal counsel. Once adopted, make sure the SOG is communicated to members, implemented and performance monitored for effective implementation.***

**Policy:**

Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) shall be provided for and shall be used by all personnel working in areas where:

1. The atmosphere is hazardous
2. The atmosphere is suspected of being hazardous
3. The atmosphere may become hazardous

In addition to the above, all personnel working below ground level or inside any confined space shall be provided and shall use an SCBA unless the safety of the atmosphere can be established by testing and continuous monitoring.

Damage to the SCBA shall be reported to the incident commander immediately. The incident commander shall inspect the damage and determine if the unit is to be repaired or replaced. Full personal protective gear, as detailed in the Turnout Gear SOG is to be worn together with the SCBA.

The incident commander may use his/her discretion to determine the need for use of SCBA where no specific guideline has been established. The SCBA is to be worn whenever there is any doubt that a hazardous condition either exists or could exist in the foreseeable future.

Each SCBA used at a scene shall be thoroughly cleaned and inspected following the guidelines established by the manufacturer. SCBA's shall be inspected at least once each month following the manufacturer's guidelines. Only those members trained to do so may repair any of the working components of the SCBA. Logs of repairs made on each unit shall be maintained and held on file for the life of the unit.

The intent of this procedure is that the SCBA shall be worn by any member who may potentially encounter hazardous atmosphere conditions during any type of incident, fire, rescue, or hazardous materials.

**Purpose:**

To provide guidelines for safe the use of SCBA during emergency operations. Appropriate use of SCBA shall include that the SCBA be in the positive pressure mode with the user having the face piece on and breathing SCBA air. The user will wear and utilize a PASS device.

**Procedure:**

* All personnel utilizing SCBA shall operate in teams of two or more when in hazardous atmospheres.
* Personnel utilizing SCBA shall not jeopardize the protective integrity of the SCBA for any reason in known or unknown hazardous atmospheres.
* A growth of beard or facial hair at any point where the SCBA face piece is designed to seal with the face, regardless of the specific fit test measurement that can be obtained or hair that could interfere with the face piece valve function shall be PROHIBITED for personnel to wear SCBA.
* Eyeglasses with any strap or temple bar that passes through the face piece or the use of hard contact lenses shall be PROHIBITED. The use of soft contact lenses may be permitted.
* Only personnel certified by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fire Department in the use of SCBA will wear SCBA in a hazardous atmosphere. To be certified, personnel must:
	+ Become initially certified to wear SCBA by establishing competency to department standard.
	+ Attend a minimum of ten monthly training sessions in structural firefighting or participate in at least 24 hours of structural firefighting annually.
* No fire fighter will lower their level of respiratory protection in any hazardous atmosphere until the incident commander declares the atmosphere safe through the use of air monitoring.
* Whenever personnel enter a hazardous atmosphere at least one person must remain outside the hazardous atmosphere with access to full protective clothing and SCBA in the event that entry personnel should require rescue. The apparatus operator or incident commander shall be designated this position in the initial stages of an incident. A rapid intervention team will be assigned beyond this point.

***This is a sample guideline furnished to you by VFIS. Your organization should review this guideline and make the necessary modifications to meet your organization’s needs. The intent of this guideline is to assist you in reducing exposure to the risk of injury, harm or damage to personnel, property and the general public. For additional information on this topic, contact your VFIS Risk Control representative.***

**References:**

West Redding (CT) VFD – GOG 3-S-308 Developed/Revised/Reviewed by VFIS ETC

Memphis (MI) Fire Department