

## RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

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04/01/2011

Supersedes Editions:

12/01/2008, 01/01/2007; 02/01/1999; 02/02/2000; 01/01/2005

**Purpose:**    *The following is written to ensure that the Okolona Fire Department complies with the minimum standards as set forth in 29-CFR-1910.134 (OSHA Regulation).*

### Procedure:

1. The Okolona Fire Department has selected the Sperian Warrior positive pressure, self contained breathing system ("SCBA"). Additionally, there are fixed breathing air systems on units 8051, 8052, and 8053. This is the only breathing apparatus in use by the fire department at the time of this writing. Later models which may be purchased will not require re-writing of this procedure.
2. Any member who is qualified or certified to don a different brand, make or model self contained breathing apparatus, shall provide this information to the fire department training bureau and safety officer. Along with initial documentation, the member must supply information related to updated training and re-certification of the brand, make or model.
3. New recruits and lateral transfer members must successfully complete a thorough medical examination prior any fit testing of SCBA, or allowed to don SCBA for training or other use.
4. No member shall be allowed to use SCBA during operations until satisfactory completion of the following:
  - A. Nine (9) hours of classroom and practical training to include:
    - Necessity of respiratory protection
    - Why a poor fit compromises protection
    - Why poor operation compromises protection
    - Why poorly maintained SCBA compromises protection
    - Limitations and capabilities of SCBA
    - Operation of SCBA
    - Malfunctioning SCBA and appropriate action
    - Inspection of SCBA
    - Donning/Doffing SCBA
    - Checking face piece, and ensuring proper seal
    - Cleaning, disinfecting, maintaining and storing SCBA
    - Medical conditions affecting use of SCBA
    - Face piece fit test
  - B. Upon completion of the SCBA training, the member shall successfully complete a practical test to demonstrate competency in SCBA use.
5. Subsequent to initial training, each member shall successfully complete annual refresher training, and demonstration of competency in SCBA use.

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### USE OF SCBA:

1. Facial hair (beards and sideburns) will prevent a satisfactory face piece seal. Members shall not wear respiratory protection equipment unless they are clean shaven. Other items, such as eyeglasses, that penetrate the face piece seal are prohibited.
2. Any member having changes in facial features which may affect face piece fit shall undergo fit testing. Examples of these changes include: gain or loss of weight, dentures.)
3. Any indication of SCBA malfunction requires that the SCBA be removed from service immediately. The SCBA shall not be returned to service until necessary repairs have been made by a competent person. SCBA suspected of malfunctioning shall be tagged, and an explanation of the problem stated on the tag.
4. Members shall carry air cylinders by picking up the body of the cylinder and not by the cylinder's hand wheel. (This could cause the cylinder valve to inadvertently open leading to the cylinder's becoming dangerously airborne under the thrust of the air released.)
5. "Thread-saver" caps shall be placed on all SCBA cylinders that are not connected to air lines so as to prevent damage to threads.

### IMMEDIATELY DANGEROUS TO LIFE AND HEALTH ATMOSPHERES:

1. All structure fires beyond the incipient stage are recognized as being potentially Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health atmospheres ("IDLH"). Hazardous material incidents are likewise determined to be IDLH atmospheres.
2. Such atmospheres will continue to be deemed as IDLH until otherwise determined by the Incident Commander, as demonstrated by use of metering equipment.
3. All members shall wear SCBA or other appropriate respiratory protection when entering IDLH atmospheres.

### TWO IN/TWO OUT & RAPID INTERVENTION:

1. Whenever members are operating inside an IDLH atmosphere, they shall do so in teams of not less than two (2).
2. Whenever members are operating in and IDLH atmosphere, there shall be a Rapid Intervention Team ("RIT") assigned. The RIT should consist of experienced firefighters as much as practical. (Refer to Rapid Intervention SOP for additional information on this subject).
3. If there is a rescue situation, members may enter an IDLH atmosphere without RIT being in placed. RIT shall be established as soon as possible however.
4. The RIT shall have personal protective equipment including SCBA, immediately available for use. It is preferred, but not necessary, for the RIT to have this equipment donned.
5. The incident commander or apparatus operator may constitute one (1) of the RIT members. The second RIT member shall have no other duties assigned.

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6. The Incident Commander shall determine if additional Rapid Intervention Teams are appropriate.
7. RIT members shall remain in voice, visual or radio contact with teams operating within an IDLH atmosphere.
8. Whenever members are operating in positions or performing functions that include special operations, or subject them to immediate injury in the event of an equipment failure or other sudden event, at least one RIT shall be standing by with equipment to provide assistance or rescue.
9. It is imperative for RIT members to realize the importance of their task. These members must be physically and mentally prepared to affect rescue of endangered firefighters with minimal delay. Equipment must be readily available. Members who do not have full turn out gear, including SCBA, cannot be used as RIT members.

### ISSUANCE OF PERSONAL FACE PIECE AND REGULATOR:

1. Each member shall be issued his/her own face piece including a bag in which to store this equipment. Each member is responsible for the safeguarding of this equipment, in addition to its proper cleaning. This equipment shall be issued to new fire department members as soon as practical.

### CLEANING, MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS AND INSPECTION:

1. All repairs shall be done only by persons certified and responsible for SCBA maintenance. **No one shall disassemble any regulator or face piece** for any reason except as described below for cleaning, unless he or she is responsible for SCBA maintenance.
2. Any regulator or face piece that is in need of repairs shall be documented on a work request form. Each member who has a regulator or face piece in need of repair shall be responsible for submitting the required work request, and getting this equipment to a person authorized to make repairs.
3. Each member is responsible for the accountability and cleaning of their assigned regulator and face piece. Each member shall clean their face piece at least monthly and log it in the "Face Mask Logbook" located near the mask cleaning station at each fire station.
4. The fire department safety officer shall regularly inspect issued SCBA equipment to determine whether it is receiving the proper care. A record of these inspections shall be maintained.
5. In accordance with SCBA manufacturer recommendations, Duracell alkaline MN1400C size batteries must be used in the battery compartment to maintain the intrinsic safety certification of the Warrior self contained breathing apparatus.
6. The following are the procedures for cleaning of the face piece and the second stage regulator. Any needed dish soap or bleach shall be supplied at each station:

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### FACE PIECE CLEANING:

1. The following is the correct procedure for cleaning SCBA face pieces:
  - A. Wash the face piece in a light mixture of dish soap and water.
  - B. Rinse the face piece in a mixture of bleach and water - two (2) tablespoons of bleach or Simple Green to one (1) gallon of water.
  - C. Face pieces with Head's Up Display ("HUD") shall be cleaned with disinfectant wipes, and great care shall be used not to submerge electronics.
  - D. Rinse in clean water and dry. If compressed air is used for drying it shall be breathing grade air.

### SECOND STAGE REGULATOR CLEANING (IF APPLICABLE):

1. The following is the correct procedure for cleaning SCBA second stage regulators, where applicable:
  - A. ***Cover the second stage regulator so that water does not get inside the regulator.*** Use the provided cleaning cap.
  - B. Wash with a light mixture of dish soap and water.
  - C. Rinse with clean water and dry. ***Do not place the regulator in the bleach water solution.*** If compressed air is used for drying it shall be breathing grade air.

### FIT TESTING:

1. All members of the fire department who are subject to wearing SCBA during the course of their duties shall undergo regularly scheduled fit testing.
2. Fit testing shall be done using the quantitative (QNFT) method, employing a TSI PortaCount machine.
3. Fit testing shall be performed by those members properly trained on performing a fit test.
4. Records shall be maintained of fit testing.
5. Members failing to complete a regularly scheduled fit test shall be prohibited from riding fire apparatus until a fit test has been completed. Members shall be responsible for making their own arrangements for a fit test, and upon completion of that test, shall bring documentation demonstrating successful completion of fit test.
6. Appropriate action shall be taken to achieve a satisfactory fit test, to include issuance of different size face piece.