

Central Joint Fire District

Standard Operating Procedure



Central Joint Fire District

SUBJECT: Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
(SCBA) - Use Of

SOP Number: 340
Effective Date: 1/8/92
Revised Date:
Approved:

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this standard is to assure that all personnel are prepared to perform emergency operations while maintaining the highest degree of personal safety for all personnel.

The use of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) is an essential part of the complete personal protective equipment provided for members of the Central Joint Fire District. As such, all personnel are expected to utilize SCBA whenever the need for respiratory protection is indicated.

It shall be the policy of the Central Joint Fire District that personnel not be exposed to any hazardous atmosphere without the benefit of SCBA. Instances of exposure shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated by the Safety Officer, Training Officer, Assistant Chief, and Fire Chief. Appropriate action shall be taken to prevent the recurrence of violations against this standard.

SCOPE: This standard shall apply to all personnel responding to **any** type of fire, Hazardous Materials Incident, or other emergency where respiratory protection is indicated.

ENFORCEMENT: Each active member of the Central Joint Fire District bears full responsibility for adherence to this procedure. Authority to deviate from this standard rests with the Incident Commander, and/or Safety Officer, who bear full responsibility for the results of any deviation.

DEFINITIONS:

SCBA - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus of the open circuit positive pressure type, designed to provide the wearer with breathable air for respiratory protection.

Department Equipment - The Central Joint Fire District uses Survivair Pressure Demand Air Masks. These consist of the face piece assembly, breathing tube, regulator, high pressure hose with warning alarm assembly, and 4500 p.s.i./30 minute rated cylinders, 2015-2216 p.s.i./30 minute rated cylinder, and harness/back plate assembly. (Note - the 30-minute time period assumes physically fit personnel not working under demanding conditions. You can expect between 20-15 minutes time use for the average member.)

Complete SCBA unit - Consist of the face piece assembly, breathing tube, regulator, high pressure hose with warning alarm assembly, full cylinder, and harness/back plate assembly.

Properly Worn - Consist of Complete SCBA with face piece supplied from the regulator, and worn on the face with an air tight seal. Low pressure tube is to be connected securely to the regulator.

APPLICATION: SCBA shall be worn by all Fire District personnel when entering an area where there is a possibility of hazardous/toxic atmosphere. Resist the desire to prematurely remove breathing apparatus during routine fire situations. Respiratory hazards exist in ordinary, as well as extraordinary fire situations. Carbon monoxide levels generally increase during the overhaul phase due to the incomplete burning of the smoldering materials.

340.1 Structural Firefighting

Complete SCBA units shall be properly worn by all fire persons engaged in the Offensive Fire Attack against a structure. This includes, but is not limited to, persons involved in search and rescue, ventilation, and forcible entry.

Defensive Fire Attack does not necessarily require SCBA masks to be worn, however SCBA units shall be worn in a serviceable condition with the face piece accessible and ready to be worn. Persons involved in overhaul shall wear complete SCBA units until such time as the Incident Commander, and/or Safety Officer deems it safe to remove the masks.

340.2 Facial Hair - Beards/Sideburns

Beards, facial hair, and long sideburns interfere with the seal of the face piece to the skin and are therefore prohibited for members required to use an SCBA in the performance of his/her duties with the Department. If eyeglasses are to be worn, the member shall use frames that do not pass through the seal area of the face piece.

340.3 Vehicle Fires

All persons engaged in attacking or overhauling vehicle fires shall properly wear complete SCBA units until such time as the Incident Commander, and/or Safety Officer deems it safe to remove the masks.

340.4 Hazardous Material Incidents

Complete SCBA units shall be properly worn at, in, or around the vicinity of any hazardous material incident where respiratory protection is indicated.

340.5 Equipment Testing

Cylinders - all aluminum and composite air cylinders shall be hydrostatically tested every three (3) years. Upon successful completion of the test, the test month and year shall be stamped on the cylinder, in an easily read location.

All steel air cylinders shall be hydrostatically tested every five (5) years. Upon successful completion of the test, the test month and year shall be stamped on the cylinder in an easily read location. SCBA - All SCBA units shall be flow tested annually and maintained in compliance with the Ohio Administrative Code 4121:1-21-02 (K).