

Hurricane Fire & Rescue

Hurricane, WV

Operation Guidelines

Subject	Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
Guideline Number	800.603
Adopted	March 1, 2007
Effective Date	April 7, 2007
Pages	3

- A. It is the policy of this department that all personnel expected to respond and function in areas of atmospheric contamination shall have availability of a self-contained breathing apparatus (**S.C.B.A.**) and trained in its proper use and maintenance.
- B. The intent of the **S.C.B.A.** policy is to avoid any respiratory contact with products of combustion, superheated gases, toxic products or other hazardous contaminants.
- C. Every Firefighter shall be accountable for checking all departmental **S.C.B.A.'s** and shall check the condition of that **S.C.B.A.** after each use, and at any other time it may be necessary to render the equipment in a ready state of condition. No **S.C.B.A.** on apparatus shall have less than 2000 p.s.i. This is to include all spare air bottles carried on apparatus.
- D. Each firefighter will be responsible for the proper use and function of that **S.C.B.A.** that they use at fires, ILDH atmospheres and during training. The driver of the apparatus is assigned to check all additional S.C.B.A.'s and equipment for that apparatus.
- E. If an **S.C.B.A.** is found to be functioning improperly, it shall be taken out of service, tagged, reported, and replaced immediately.
- F. The use of breathing apparatus means that all personnel shall have face-pieces in place, breathing air from the supply provided. Where appropriate, Airline-Supplied Breathing Apparatus may be used in place of **S.C.B.A.**

- G. **Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus** shall be used by all personnel operating:
- 1 - in a contaminated atmosphere
 - 2 - in an atmosphere, which may suddenly become contaminated
 - 3 - in an atmosphere, which is oxygen deficient
 - 4 - in an atmosphere, which is suspected of being contaminated or oxygen deficient.
- H. This includes all personnel operating:
1. in an active fire area
 2. Directly above an active fire area
 3. In a potential explosion or fire area, including gas leaks and fuel spills
 4. Where products of combustion are visible in the atmosphere, **vehicle fires and dumpster fires**
 5. Where invisible contaminants are suspected to be present until proven otherwise by monitoring equipment
(i.e. Carbon Monoxide during overhaul)
 6. Where toxic products are present, suspected to be present, or may be released without warning
 7. In any confined space that has not been tested to establish respiratory safety
- I. In addition to the above, **S.C.B.A.** shall be worn by all personnel operating at fire incidents above ground, below ground or in any other area which is not, but which may become contaminated by products of combustion or other hazardous substances. In these circumstances only, the **S.C.B.A.** may be worn with the face-piece removed. The wearing of **S.C.B.A.** in these situations provides that it will be immediately available for use if conditions change or if personnel are to enter an area where the use of **S.C.B.A.** is required.
- J. 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.
- K. In routine fire situations, the decision to remove **S.C.B.A.** shall be made by company officers, with the approval of Command, based on an evaluation of conditions. Prior to removal, fire areas shall be thoroughly ventilated and, where necessary, continuous ventilation and monitoring shall be provided.
- L. 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 monitoring. Safety Sector personnel shall be responsible for this determination. This is required in complex situations, particularly when toxic materials may be involved.

- M. An evaluation of all members of the Department 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.

- N. An evaluation of any member subject to the use of an S.C.B.A. shall be conducted annually. Each member shall be fit tested initially for the proper fit of his or her SCBA face-piece and on an as needed basis from that point forward.