



ABINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

OG - 200-105

Self Contained Breathing Apparatus

1.0 PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the use of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) to reduce the risk of illness, injury or death that might result from a member's exposure to a hazardous environment. All personnel expected to respond and function in areas of potential oxygen deficiency or atmospheric contamination, or are expected to work in hazardous environments shall be trained in the proper use of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

The intent of this SOP is to avoid hazards associated with oxygen deficient atmospheres or any respiratory contact with products of combustion, superheated gases, toxic products, or other hazardous contaminants.

This document applies to all personnel expected to operate under the above mentioned conditions.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility to ensure that the actions described in this procedure are carried out belong to the following.

2.1 Company Members

2.2 Company Officers

3.0 PROCEDURE

3.1 The use of breathing apparatus means SCBA shall be properly donned, facepieces in place, PASS device activated (if part of the SCBA), and with personnel breathing from the supply provided

3.2 Prior to issue of protective clothing and equipment members shall be trained in the maintenance and use of the equipment.

3.3 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus shall be used by all personnel operating:

- in a contaminated atmosphere.
- in an atmosphere which may become contaminated.
- in an atmosphere which is oxygen deficient.
- in a contaminated atmosphere.
- in an atmosphere which may become contaminated.
- in an atmosphere which is oxygen deficient. Form: 200-309
- in an atmosphere which is suspected of being contaminated or oxygen deficient.

3.4 This includes all personnel performing suppression operations:

- in an active fire area
- directly above or below an active fire area.
- in an area with the potential for ignition or explosion, including gas leaks and fuel spills.
- where products of combustion are visible in the atmosphere, including vehicle fires and dumpster fires.
- where invisible contaminants are suspected to be present (i.e., carbon monoxide during overhaul).
- where toxic products are present, suspected to be present, or may be released without warning.
- in any confined space which has not been tested to establish respiratory safety.
- in a basement or enclosed excavation.

3.5 In addition to the above, SCBA 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. Only in these circumstances, may SCBA be worn with the facepiece removed. The wearing of SCBA in these situations provides immediate availability for use if conditions change, or if personnel enter an area where the use of SCBA is required.

3.6 Premature removal of SCBA 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.

- 3.7** In routine fire situations, the decision to remove SCBA shall be made by the Incident Commander, based on an evaluation of conditions and recommendation from Company Officers. Prior to removal, fire areas shall be thoroughly ventilated and, where necessary, continuous ventilation shall be provided.
- 3.8** If there is any doubt about respiratory safety, SCBA use shall be maintained until the atmosphere is established to be safe by testing.
- 3.9** Atmosphere testing devices shall be used, when available. Form: 200-309
- 3.10** The person using the SCBA will be responsible for placing the unit back in service.
- 3.11** SCBA found to be unsafe or inoperable should be taken out of service and reported to the designated person(s) in their company.
- 3.12** SCBA that has been identified as damaged or inoperable should be tagged out of service and not be used until repaired.

4.0 RECORDS

- 4.1** Training Records