

SPRINGFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Series 300

Title:	Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)	310
Category:	Health & Safety	7/2017

OBJECTIVE

To provide for the safety and respiratory protection of department personnel while working in a hazardous environment; A **hazardous environment** is an environment that may, in the absence of safety precautions, pose an unreasonable risk to health and safety.

USE OF A SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SBCA)

- A. It is the guideline of the Springfield Fire Department that all personnel expected to function in areas of atmospheric contamination shall be trained and evaluated on an annual basis in the proper use and maintenance of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). The use and training in SCBA shall be in accordance with department training guidelines, manufacturer's recommendations and Fire Fighter Training Council.
- B. All department personnel shall have their SCBA mask fit-tested annually based upon the current requirements of the Occupational Safety & Health Standard.
- C. All personnel shall be provided with and shall utilize SCBA in the following situations:
 - The atmosphere is hazardous.
 - The atmosphere is suspected of being hazardous.
 - The atmosphere may become hazardous.
- D. When any member of a team utilizing SCBA within operation requires a bottle to be changed all team members within that crew shall have their bottles replaced.
- E. After using two (2) bottles of air, all personnel shall report to rehab.
- F. The SCBA may be removed when the incident commander determines that a respiratory hazard no longer exists.
- G. SCBA's shall be thoroughly cleaned and inspected after each use. Those personnel that have been trained shall perform the cleaning and inspection in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines SCBA's shall be inspected no less than once each month in accordance with MIOSHA part 74, following manufacturer's guidelines.
- H. Any SCBA not passing inspection shall be red tagged. Any repairs shall be performed by a factory trained technician.

PURPOSE

To establish a guideline to indicate the proper maintenance, inspection and record keeping for self-contained breathing apparatus.

RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the chief to assure that the SCBA Inspection policies are implemented. It is the responsibility of the training officer to assure that all members of Springfield Fire Department are trained in accordance with this Standard Operating Guideline. It will be the responsibility of the assigned chief to assure that the intent of the SOG is met. It is the responsibility of the personnel to conduct inspections and keep records as outlined in this policy. All firefighters shall assist in maintaining SCBA's in working order.

INSPECTION AND RECORDS

All SCBA in use by Springfield Fire Department will be inspected and placed back in service after each use. In addition assigned station personnel shall make monthly inspections of all SCBA units. Inspections will be completed by apparatus. The inspections shall consist of checking the entire unit for deteriorated components, air tightness of cylinders, valves, gauge comparison, reducing valve, and bypass valve operation, regulator, exhalation valve, heads up displays, and low air alarm. The face piece and harness shall also be visually inspected. The entire SCBA will be cleaned and dried. The P.A.S.S. device shall be tested for each of the SCBA's. The hydro test dates will be checked on each cylinder and sent to be hydro tested if needed. Records shall be kept on each of the inspections. Inspection check sheets will be maintained in a three ring binder in the apparatus bay. If there is any malfunction found the SCBA shall be taken out of service, until it is repaired. Anytime a SCBA is taken out of service the chief shall be notified.

In addition a functionality inspection shall be made before entering any Immediately Dangerous to Life Hazardous atmosphere (IDLH). This inspection shall consist of a visual check to the face piece, harness, and cylinder pressure. The user shall also check for leaks, gauge comparison, proper fit, and the air bottle is fully charged. If there is any malfunction found on the SCBA, it shall be taken out of service until it is repaired. Only a qualified person shall conduct annual inspection and service of SCBA's; This inspection shall be performed according to manufacturer's recommendation.

MAINTENANCE

SCBA's that need maintenance work done to them; will be done by trained maintenance personnel only. If repair work is needed on a SCBA it shall be taken out of service, tagged with a note describing the problem, and reported to the chief. O-rings are the only part that can be replaced by a firefighter; at no time shall any firefighter open the regulator to do repairs.

CONCLUSION

It is for the safety of every firefighter to keep the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus in proper condition. Regular inspections, maintenance, and training of the SCBA's can accomplish the level of safety needed during an emergency. It is essential to use the SCBA's whenever the situation dictates and to follow this standard operation guideline. Following this standard operating guideline will help in preventing injuries that can occur from smoke and heat that can damage your lungs. These injuries can have an acute or chronic effect on your health. The chronic effects may not be noticed for years